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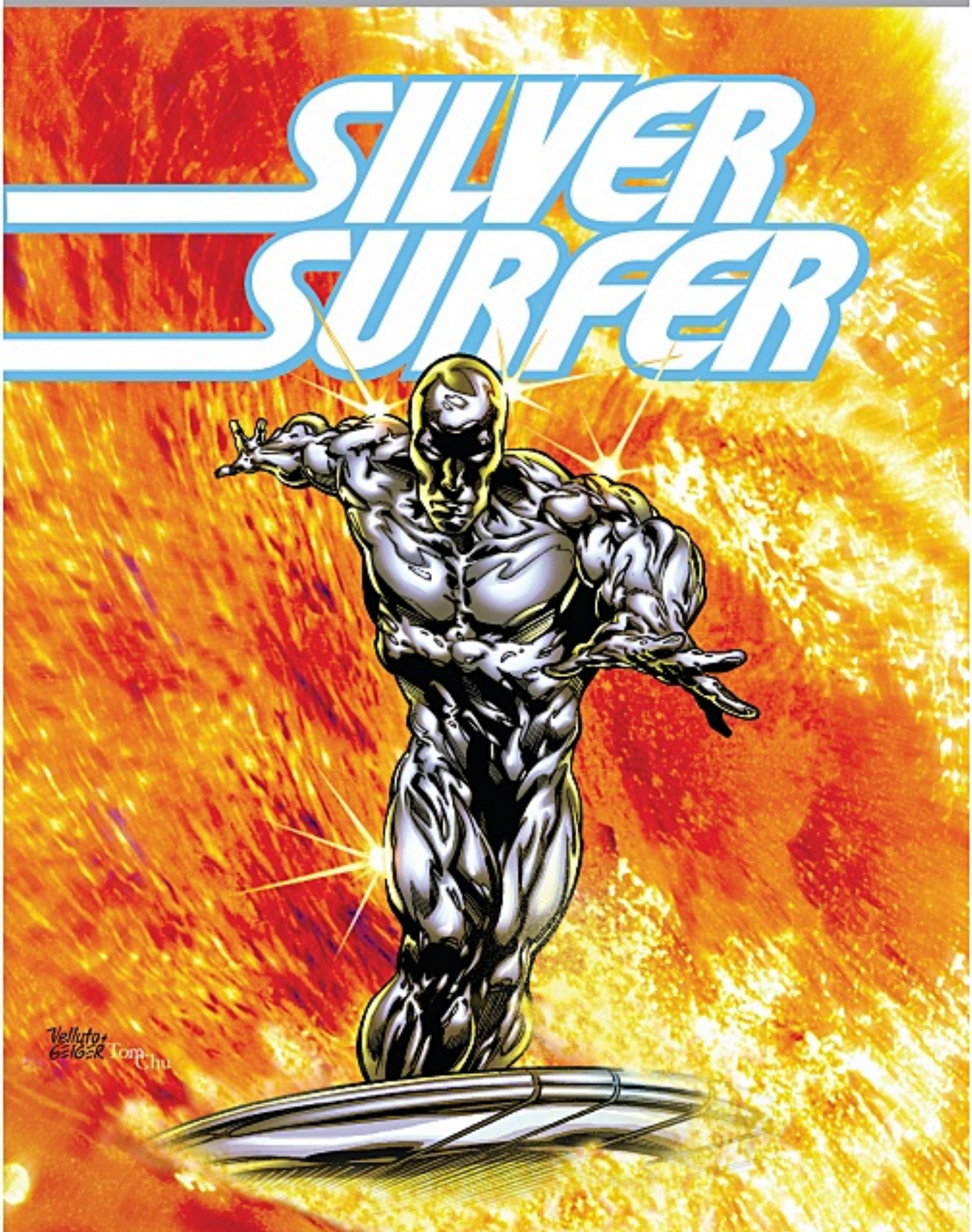
SILVER SURFER



SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL

DEFALCO • DEMATTEIS • SIMONSON • MUTH • BUSCEMA

EPIC COLLECTION

SILVER SURFER

SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL

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SILVER SURFER

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SILVER SURFER & THOR ANNUAL 1998
"MILLENNIUS!"

SILVER SURFER #1/2, 1998
"SUDDENLY...SYMPIRA!"

SILVER SURFER #139, MAY 1998
"SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL: PROLOGUE"

SILVER SURFER #140, JUNE 1998
"SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL, CHAPTER ONE: ORIGINS"

SILVER SURFER #141, JULY 1998
"SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL, CHAPTER TWO: INTO THE MACROVERSE"

SILVER SURFER #142, AUGUST 1998
"SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL, CHAPTER THREE: RETURN FROM FOREVER"

SILVER SURFER #143, SEPTEMBER 1998
"THE FORSAKEN"

SILVER SURFER #144, EARLY OCTOBER 1998
"COUPLINGS"

SILVER SURFER #145, LATE OCTOBER 1998
"AND IN THE END..."
"ACROSS THE UNIVERSE"

SILVER SURFER #146, NOVEMBER 1998
"FIRE IN THE SKY"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #1, SEPTEMBER 1999
"HUNGER!"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #2, OCTOBER 1999
"RED SHIFT"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #3, NOVEMBER 1999
"DENIAL"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #4, DECEMBER 1999
"TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #5, JANUARY 2000
"HERALD"

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #6, FEBRUARY 2000
"THE DEATH OF GALACTUS"

SILVER SURFER: LOFTIER THAN MORTALS #1, OCTOBER 1999
"LOFTIER THAN MORTALS"

SILVER SURFER: LOFTIER THAN MORTALS #2, OCTOBER 1999
"TO THE HUNTER, THE PREY"

MARVEL COMICS
1998
ANNUAL
STARRING
SILVER SURFER
&
the mighty THOR
TO FACE the FURY of MILLENNIUS!
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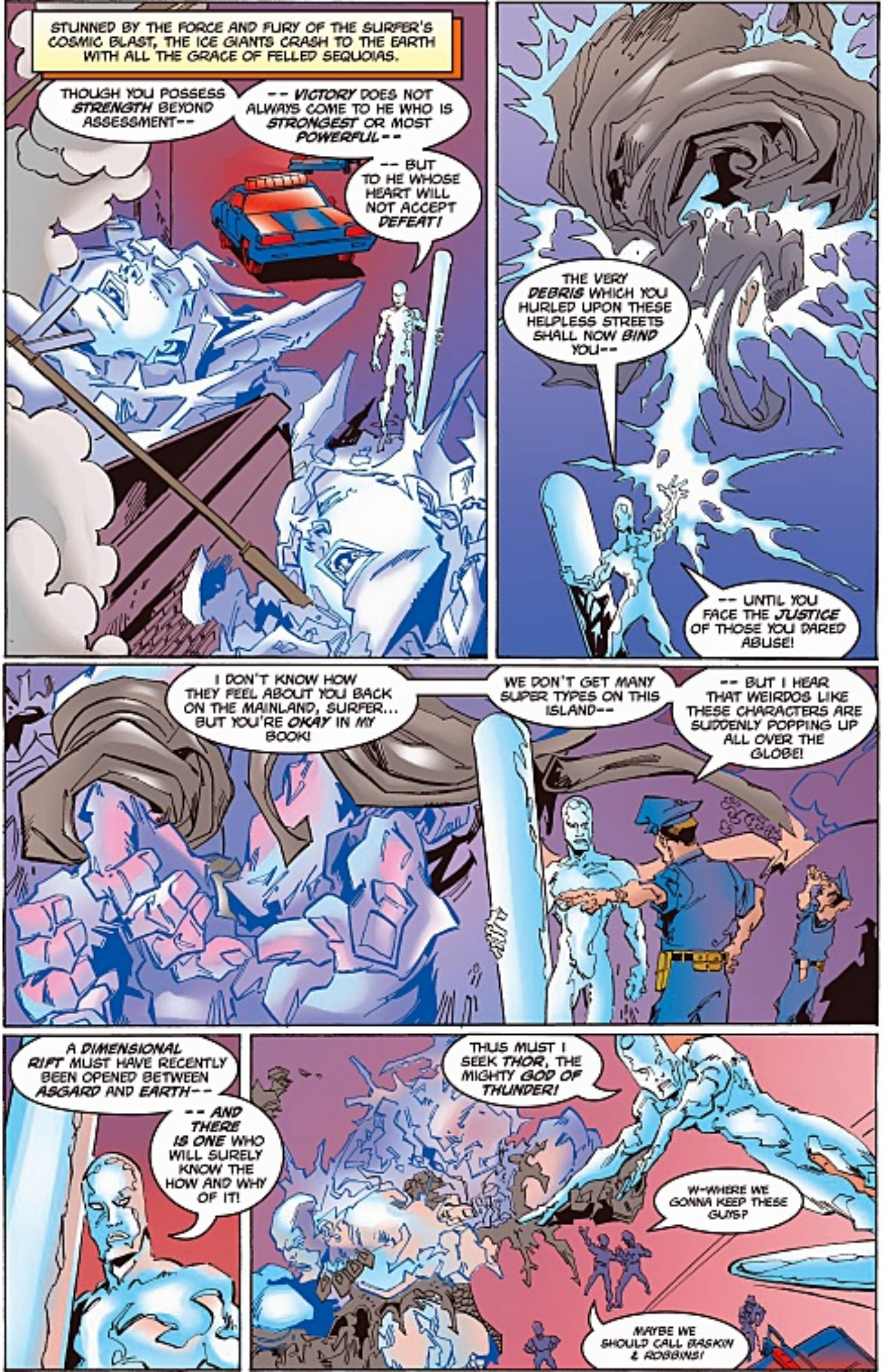
THOUGH HE OFTEN ROAMS THE DISTANT SEAS OF ENDLESS SPACE, ROUTINELY EXPERIENCING SIGHTS AND SOUNDS BEYOND THE KEN OF OUR MERE MORTAL SENSES--
-- THE SILVER SURFER HAS JOURNEYED TO THE TROPICAL PARADISE KNOWN AS KAHOOLAWE FOR REASONS FAMILIAR TO US ALL.
HE COMES IN SEARCH OF WARM BREEZES, AND THE GENTLE CARESS OF SURF AND SAND.
INSTEAD, HE IS GREETED BY A SAVAGE ASSAULT--
-- AND A MOST PUZZLING SPECTACLE!
A MASSIVE CLUB SLASHES TOWARD ME--
-- BUT ONE WHO OUTRACES THE SPEEDING METEOR CAN DEFTLY SKIRT SUCH A CLUMSY ATTACK!
WA-BOOOM!

Stan Lee presents
The SILVER SURFER
Special Guest Star--
THE MIGHTY
THOR!
THESE CREATURES APPEAR TO BE ICE GIANTS FROM THE LEGENDARY KINGDOM OF ASGARD!*
WHY ARE THEY RUNNING AMOK IN THE SOUTH SEAS?
HOW DID THEY EVER BREACH THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS WHICH SEPARATE THE EARTH FROM THE ENCHANTED HOME OF THE NORSE GODS?
TO MY SIDE, BROTHER! THIS GLISTENING ONE IS SURELY DEMON-BORN!
HE EVADES MY SHATTERING BLOWS, AND ATTACKS WITH BOLTS OF LIVING ENERGY!
* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER THE EVENTS OF AVENGERS VOL. 3 #3-- JAYE!

MAYHAPS 'TIS HE WHO PLUCKED US FROM THE COMFORT OF OUR NORTHERN CLIMES--
-- AND SET US A'SWELTERING IN THIS MAD AND BLISTERING LAND!
An epic tale destined to Become a Milestone in the Annals of the Sky-rider of the Spaceways...
"MILLENNIUS!"
TOM DeFALCO - writer
RAMON BERNADO - penciler
MARK PENNINGTON - inker
JOHN COSTANZA - letterer
TOM SMITH - colorist
JAYE GARDNER - editor
BOB HARRAS - chief
And special thanks to J.M. DeMATTEIS for story ideas, plot assists & plain ol' inspiration

LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS! STOP THIS SENSELESS VIOLENCE!
IF YOUR FRIGID HOMELAND IS ALL YOU DESIRE, THE SILVER SURFER WILL GLADLY AID IN YOUR RETURN!
WE HAVE NO NEED OF YOUR PALTRY HELP, LITTLE MAN!
SPWAK!
MY ICE BROTHER AND I WILL CONQUER THIS STEAMING LAND--
-- AND REMAKE IT TO OUR LIKING!
YOU RETURN THREATS FOR KINDNESS! DESTRUCTION FOR COMPASSION!
AND YOU ENDANGER THESE POOR INNOCENTS!
RUN, SON! GET GOING WHILE I TRY TO PROTECT YOU--!
B-BUT, DADDY, YOU'LL BE HURT--
-- OR KILLED!
DO NOT DESPAIR!
THOUGH YOU ARE IN DANGER MOST GRAVE, I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO PERISH!
NOT WHILE I CAN SPAN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US--
-- WITH SPEED ENOUGH TO ASSURE YOUR SAFETY!
Y-YOU DID IT! SAVED ME AND MY BOY!
H-HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?

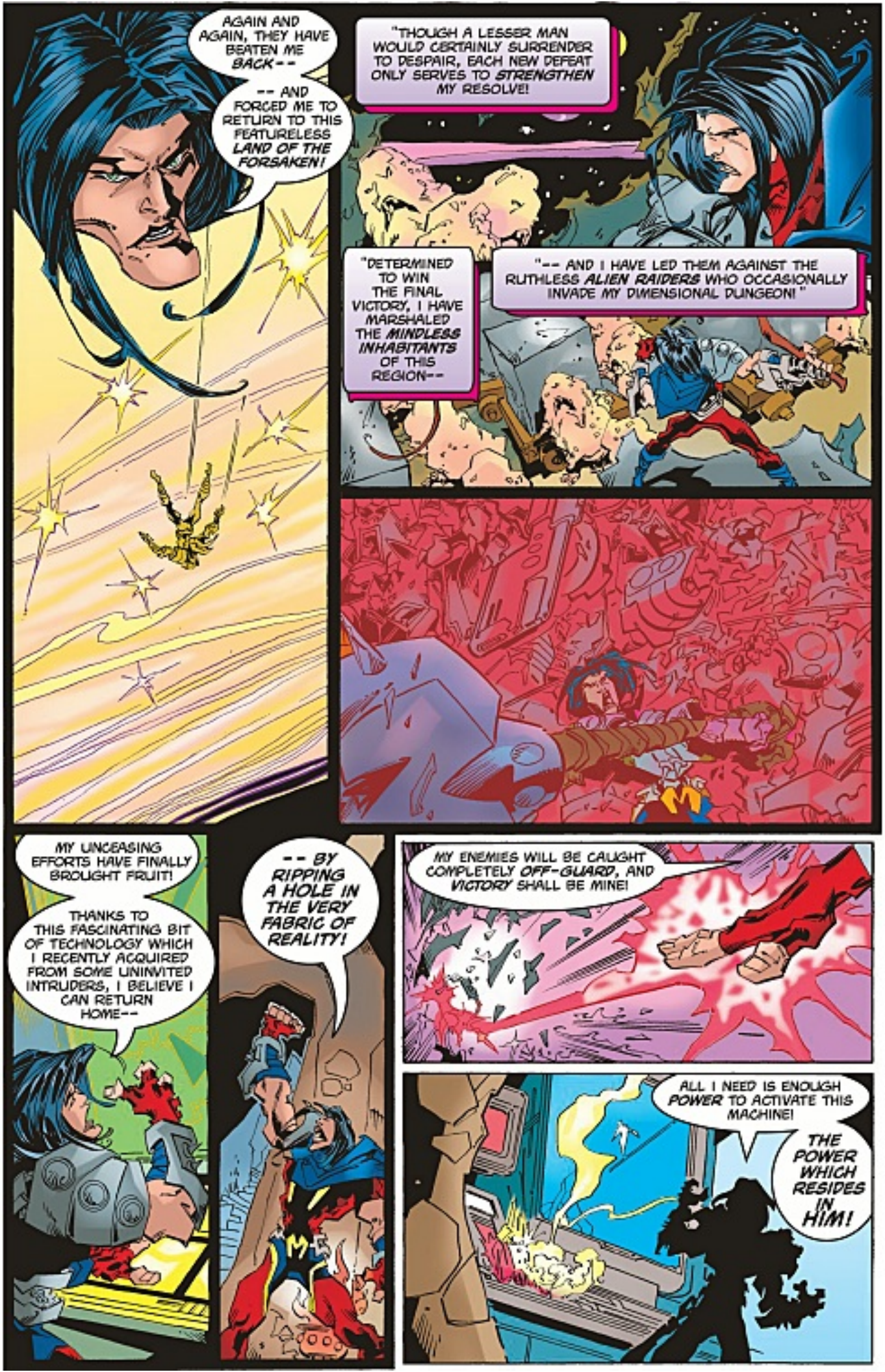
NO GREATER REWARD COULD I CLAIM--
-- THAN TO KNOW THAT YOUR SON WILL BE RAISED TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HONOR AND COMPASSION!
I...
I'LL DO MY BEST!
YAHOO! THIS IS SOOOO VERY COOL!
GO! SEEK SAFETY--
-- WHILE I ATTEND TO THE GIANTS!
TOO LATE, SILVER ONE!
YOUR CONCERN FOR THE MORTALS HAS LED TO YOUR RUIN!
NOW SHALL WE CRUSH YOU LIKE A MEANINGLESS INSECT!
THOUGH YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE--
-- STILL AM I THE SILVER SURFER!
STILL DO I POSSESS THE POWER COSMIC!
AND THUS SHALL I TRIUMPH!


STUNNED BY THE FORCE AND FURY OF THE SURFER'S COSMIC BLAST, THE ICE GIANTS CRASH TO THE EARTH WITH ALL THE GRACE OF FELLED SEQUOIAS.
THOUGH YOU POSSESS *STRENGTH* BEYOND ASSESSMENT--
-- *VICTORY* DOES NOT ALWAYS COME TO HE WHO IS *STRONGEST* OR MOST *POWERFUL*--
-- BUT TO HE WHOSE HEART WILL NOT ACCEPT *DEFEAT!*
THE *VERY DEBRIS* WHICH YOU HURLED UPON THESE HELPLESS STREETS SHALL NOW *BIND* YOU--
-- UNTIL YOU FACE THE *JUSTICE* OF THOSE YOU DARED ABUSE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT YOU BACK ON THE MAINLAND, SURFER... BUT YOU'RE *OKAY* IN *MY* BOOK!
WE DON'T GET MANY SUPER TYPES ON THIS ISLAND--
-- BUT I HEAR THAT WEIRDOS LIKE THESE CHARACTERS ARE SUDDENLY POPPING UP ALL OVER THE GLOBE!
A *DIMENSIONAL RIFT* MUST HAVE RECENTLY BEEN OPENED BETWEEN *ASGARD* AND *EARTH*--
-- *AND THERE IS ONE* WHO WILL SURELY KNOW THE HOW AND WHY OF IT!
THUS MUST I SEEK *THOR*, THE MIGHTY *GOD OF THUNDER!*
W-WHERE WE GONNA KEEP THESE GUYS?
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL BASKIN & ROBBINS!

EVEN AS THE SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS STREAKS IN SEARCH OF THE ASGARDIAN AVENGER, WE WILL TURN OUR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE...
...TO A NAMELESS LIMBO WHICH BORDERS EVERY PLANE OF PHYSICAL REALITY--
-- AND EXISTS IN THE GREAT CHASM BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE!
A DESOLATE AND MALODOROUS REALM, INHABITED BY BARELY SENTIENT SLUGLIKE CREATURES--
-- AND ONE OTHER!
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I SUFFER THE INSUFFERABLE--
-- AND ENDURE THE UNENDURABLE?!
FOR EONS BEYOND NUMBER, I HAVE BEEN UNJUSTLY EXILED TO THIS MUSTY AND MOLD-PLAGUED LAND!
WHEN WILL JUSTICE PREVAIL?
WHEN WILL I BE FREE?!

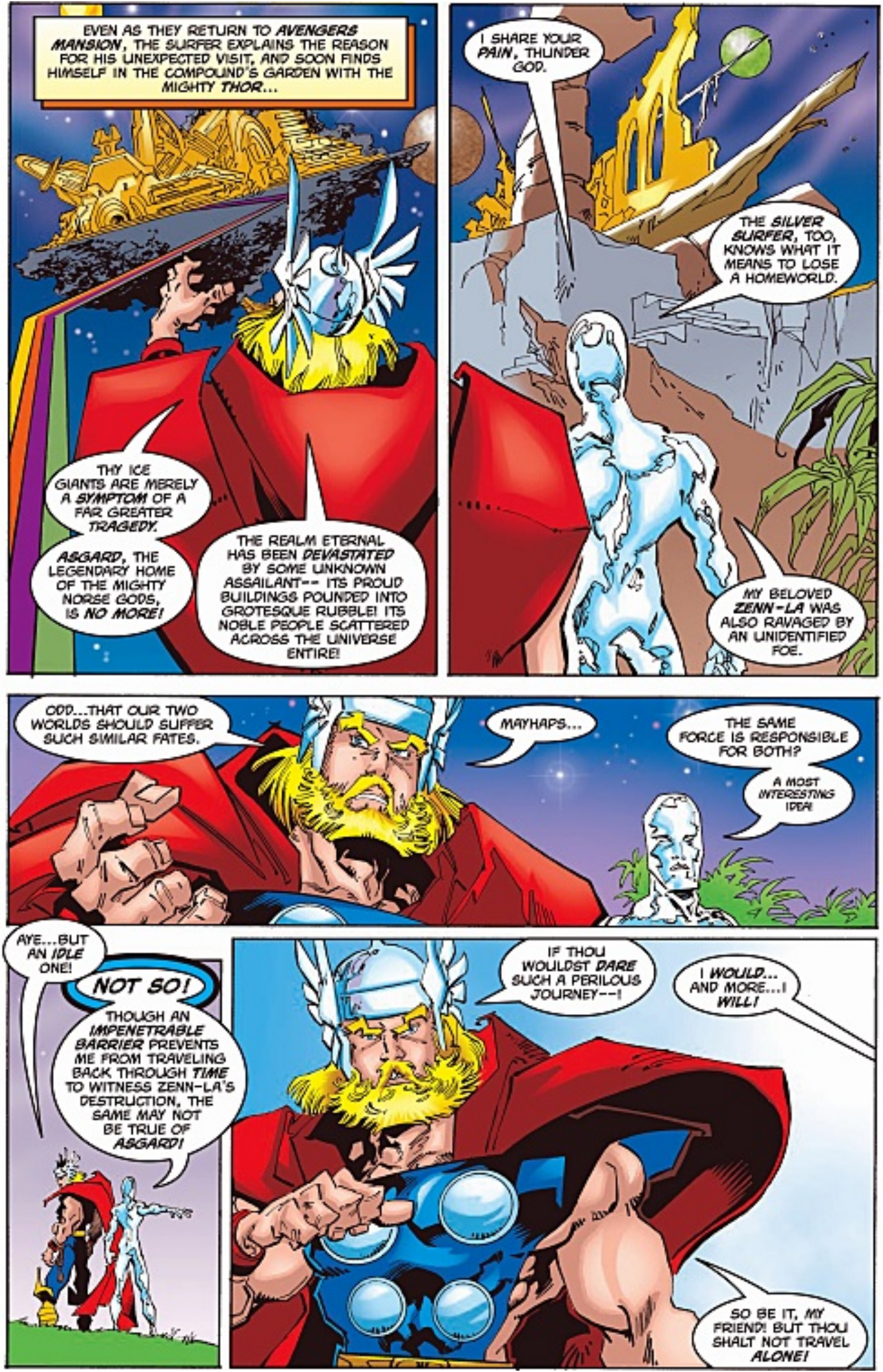
WHEN WILL MILLENNIUS KNOW THE PEACE AND SOLACE I SO RICHLY DESERVE?!
HERE I STAND-- ALONE BUT UNBROKEN-- IN A CASTLE BUILT WITH MY OWN HANDS!
IN A LABORATORY FILLED WITH THE PURLOINED REMINDERS OF THOSE UNWARY FEW--
-- WHO CHANCED UPON THIS KINGDOM OF CURSED AND HAUNTED SHADOWS.
AT LAST! AT LONG LAST THE DAY OF MY DELIVERANCE IS AT HAND!
THERE! I HAVE FINALLY FOUND IT AGAIN! ON THE SCREEN BEFORE ME IS THE MYSTERIOUS ENERGY CONTRAIL WHICH SHALL LIBERATE ME... AND SAVE THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!

WHATEVER THE SOURCE OF THIS PUZZLING AND SEEMINGLY UNLIMITED FOUNT OF POWER--
-- I MUST TRACK IT ACROSS THE DIMENSIONAL SEAS!
AND THEN I MUST FIND A WAY TO LURE IT TO THIS MOST DESOLATE OF DOMAINS!
THE FATE OF EVERY KNOWN PLANE OF REALITY DEPENDS UPON MY SUCCESS!
THE MONSTERS WHO HAVE EXILED ME MUST NOT PREVAIL!
THEY CANNOT CONTINUE TO PLAGUE COUNTLESS INNOCENTS WITH UNTOLD SUFFERING AND SENSELESS TERROR!
SINCE I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT--
-- IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I FINALLY TRIUMPH OVER THESE MERCILESS FIENDS!
EVERY THOUSAND YEARS, THE BARRIERS WHICH THEY HAVE ERECTED TO IMPRISON ME GROW WEAK--
-- AND I VALIANTLY ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO THE REALM OF MY BIRTH!


AGAIN AND AGAIN, THEY HAVE BEATEN ME BACK--
-- AND FORCED ME TO RETURN TO THIS FEATURELESS LAND OF THE FORSAKEN!
"THOUGH A LESSER MAN WOULD CERTAINLY SURRENDER TO DESPAIR, EACH NEW DEFEAT ONLY SERVES TO STRENGTHEN MY RESOLVE!
"DETERMINED TO WIN THE FINAL VICTORY, I HAVE MARSHALED THE MINDLESS INHABITANTS OF THIS REGION--
"-- AND I HAVE LED THEM AGAINST THE RUTHLESS ALIEN RAIDERS WHO OCCASIONALLY INVADE MY DIMENSIONAL DUNGEON!"
MY UNCEASING EFFORTS HAVE FINALLY BROUGHT FRUIT!
THANKS TO THIS FASCINATING BIT OF TECHNOLOGY WHICH I RECENTLY ACQUIRED FROM SOME UNINVITED INTRUDERS, I BELIEVE I CAN RETURN HOME--
-- BY RIPPING A HOLE IN THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY!
MY ENEMIES WILL BE CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD, AND VICTORY SHALL BE MINE!
ALL I NEED IS ENOUGH POWER TO ACTIVATE THIS MACHINE!
THE POWER WHICH RESIDES IN HIM!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON OUR PERSONAL PLANE OF REALITY, A STRIDENT HOWL SUDDENLY SOUNDS WITHIN AVENGERS MANSION, HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...
EEEEEEEEEEE
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, CAPTAIN AMERICA?
ARE WE UNDER SOME SORT OF ATTACK?!
AND, BARELY A MOMENT LATER...
SCARLET WITCH! HAWKEYE! WHY ALL THE COMMOTION?
IT'S OUR LONG-RANGE SCANNERS, CAP--
-- THEY'VE DETECTED A UFO STREAKING TOWARD THE MANSION!
IS IT HOSTILE?
WE CAN'T MAKE THAT CALL AT THIS STAGE!
SINCE IT MAY BE A FIRST STRIKE FROM SOME PAST ENEMY, WE'VE ALREADY DISPATCHED A RESPONSE TEAM--
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, JUSTICE-- BUT THAT PRIORITY ALARM USUALLY MEANS BIG TROUBLE!
I SUGGEST WE DOUBLE-TIME IT TO THE COMMAND CENTER!
REACTING FASTER THAN MOST MEN THINK, CAPTAIN AMERICA IMMEDIATELY EXECUTES AN OLYMPIC-CALIBER TRIPLE SOMERSAULT--!

"-- CONSISTING OF IRON MAN, THOR AND FIRESTAR! "
WHAT'ERE AWAITS US, LET THE GOD OF THUNDER BE FIRST TO GREET IT!
YOU WON'T HEAR AN ARGUMENT FROM US, BIG GUY!
HOWEVER, I'VE ALREADY ACTIVATED MY LONG-RANGE CYBERNETIC INTERPRETATION CIRCUITRY--
-- SO THAT I CAN GET AN ADVANCE LOOK--
-- AT OUR MYSTERIOUS BOGIE, AND--
-- BACK OFF, PEOPLE! THERE IS NO DANGER!
WE'RE RESPONDING TO A FALSE ALARM!
THAT'S NO MISSILE HEADED OUR WAY!
WHAT IS IT, PRAY TELL, THAT EVEN NOW SPEEDS TOWARD US?
A FRIEND...
I HOPE.


EVEN AS THEY RETURN TO AVENGERS MANSION, THE SURFER EXPLAINS THE REASON FOR HIS UNEXPECTED VISIT, AND SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN THE COMPOUND'S GARDEN WITH THE MIGHTY THOR...
THY ICE GIANTS ARE MERELY A SYMPTOM OF A FAR GREATER TRAGEDY.
ASGARD, THE LEGENDARY HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS, IS NO MORE!
THE REALM ETERNAL HAS BEEN DEVASTATED BY SOME UNKNOWN ASSAILANT-- ITS PROUD BUILDINGS POUNDED INTO GROTESQUE RUBBLE! ITS NOBLE PEOPLE SCATTERED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!
I SHARE YOUR PAIN, THUNDER GOD.
THE SILVER SURFER, TOO, KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO LOSE A HOMEWORLD.
MY BELOVED ZENN-LA WAS ALSO RAVAGED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED FOE.
ODD...THAT OUR TWO WORLDS SHOULD SUFFER SUCH SIMILAR FATES.
MAYHAPS...
THE SAME FORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH?
A MOST INTERESTING IDEA!
AYE...BUT AN IDLE ONE!
NOT SO!
THOUGH AN IMPENETRABLE BARRIER PREVENTS ME FROM TRAVELING BACK THROUGH TIME TO WITNESS ZENN-LA'S DESTRUCTION, THE SAME MAY NOT BE TRUE OF ASGARD!
IF THOU WOULDST DARE SUCH A PERILOUS JOURNEY--!
I WOULD... AND MORE...! I WILL!
SO BE IT, MY FRIEND! BUT THOU SHALT NOT TRAVEL ALONE!

AND SO...
PREPARE YOURSELF, THUNDER GOD! WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, MY SPEED WILL GEOMETRICALLY INCREASE--
-- UNTIL I EXCEED THE SPEED OF LIGHT--
-- AND WE PIERCE THE VERY VEIL OF TIME ITSELF!
DO AS THOU MUST, GLISTENING ONE!
THE GOD OF THUNDER IS READY!
THEN, IN FAR LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO RELATE--
-- THE SILVER SURFER BEGINS TO ROCKET AROUND AND AROUND OUR PRECIOUS WORLD!
AND, IN THAT SELFSAME INSTANT...
THERE--!
THE ENERGY SOURCE WHICH I SO DESPERATELY NEED IS ON THE MOVE, AND--WONDER OF WONDERS-- IT APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM ITS OWN PLANE OF REALITY!

THIS IS MY CHANCE--!
MY PRESENT REALM EXISTS IN THE GREAT GAP WHICH SERVES AS A BUFFER BETWEEN ALL THE OTHER VARIOUS DIMENSIONS!
THUS, I MAY BE ABLE TO SNATCH MY QUARRY AT THE EXACT INSTANT HE ACHIEVES ESCAPE VELOCITY--!
MY CALCULATIONS MUST BE PERFECT! THERE IS NO MARGIN FOR ERROR!
IF I AM THE SLIGHTEST BIT OFF, MY TARGET COULD BE LOST TO ME FOREVER--!
HE WOULD BE SENT SPIRALING AN ENDLESS LOOP THROUGH THE MYRIAD DIMENSIONS OF THE OMNIVERSE--
-- AND THOSE WHO DESPERATELY PRAY FOR MY RELEASE WILL BE FORCED TO ABANDON ALL HOPE FOR SALVATION!
THE RISK IS GREAT!
BUT THE POTENTIAL REWARD IS EVEN GREATER!
I DARE NOT HESITATE! NOT WHEN THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INNOCENTS ARE AT STAKE!
I MUST ACT.. NOW!
NOW!
NOW!
KRAKA-DOOOOM!

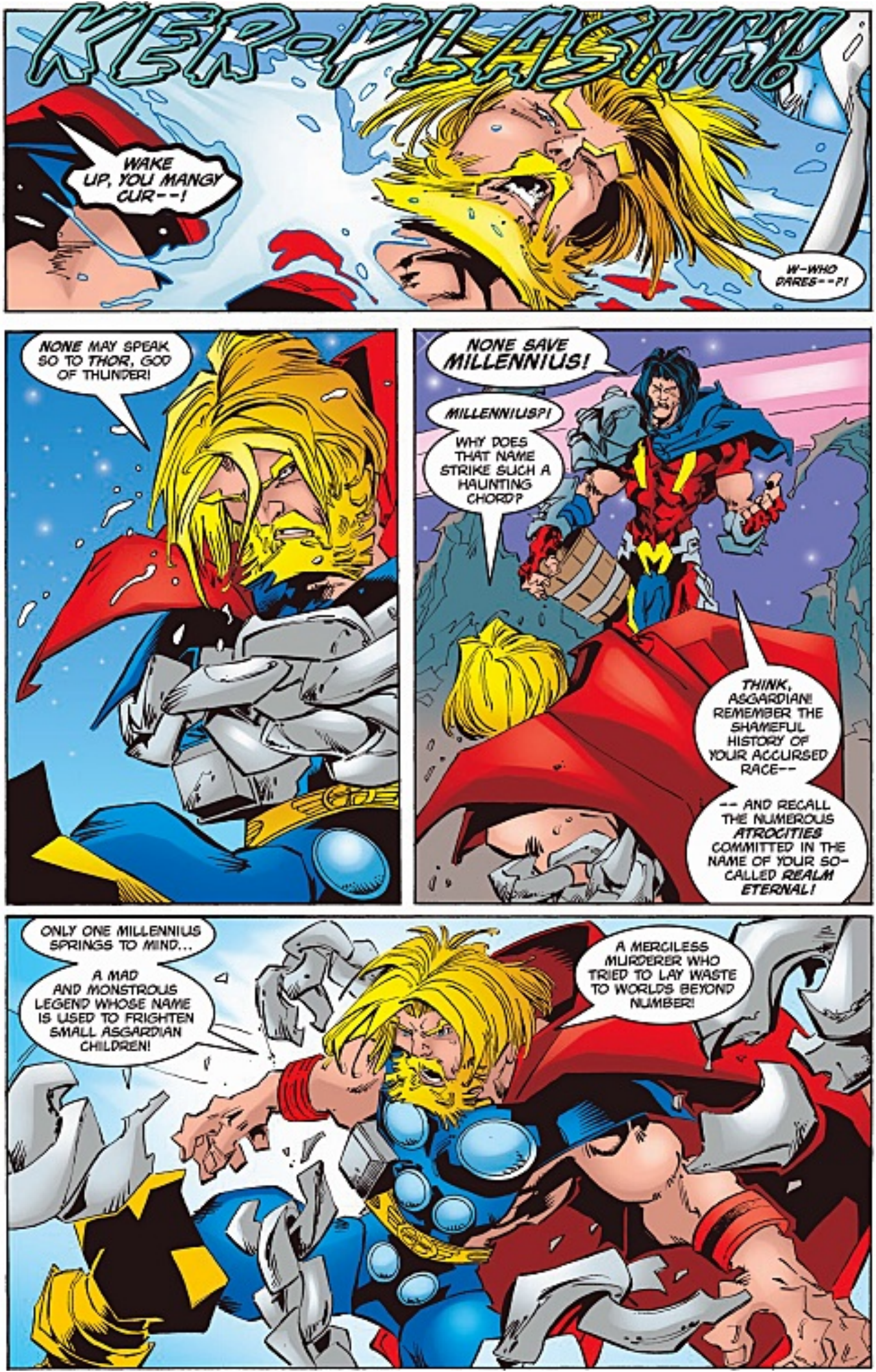
FOR A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS MOMENT, ALL IS SILENT--!
AS SILENT AS A GRAVE!
AND THEN...
...THE SURFER STIRS!
THOR! THOR! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ARE YOU CONSCIOUS?
A-AYE...
THOUGH MY HEAD HAS NOT BEEN SO SORELY USED SINCE LAST I TRAVELED THE TAVERNS WITH THE WARRIORS THREE!
W-WHAT HAPPENED? DID WE REACH THE PAST?
I CANNOT SAY!
WE HAD BARELY ENTERED THE TIME STREAM... WHEN WE WERE SUDDENLY SEIZED BY SOME UNKNOWN FORCE!
EVIL IS AT PLAY HERE!
METHINKS IT DOTH RESIDE IN YON GRIM AND FORBIDDING CASTLE!
COME! LET US CONFRONT OUR UNSEEN HOST, AND--HOLD!
AN ARMY OF SLUGLIKE ORGANISMS GATHER AROUND US!
GO, MY PETS! OUR GUESTS DESERVE A FITTING WELCOME--!
WHAT WIZARDRY IS THIS--?!
THE CREATURES HAVE SUDDENLY BEGUN TO GLOW, BLAZING LIKE ANGRY SUNS!

THEY GROW--
-- ASSUMING MONSTROUS PROPORTIONS!
THEIR MALICIOUS INTENT IS ALL TOO CLEAR--!
WOULD THAT WE KNEW WHAT PROMPTS THESE SLITHERING FOES!
NO WISH HAVE I TO SLAY THEM--
-- BUT I MUST REPULSE THEIR ATTACK WITH SHATTERING FORCE!
BEWARE, THUNDERER! THESE CREATURES MAY NOT BE AS DEFENSELESS AS THEY FIRST APPEAR!
THEIR SLIME-COVERED BODIES ARE SOFT AND MALLEABLE...AND SEEM CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THE IMPACT OF OUR STRONGEST BLOWS!
'TIS TRUE, SURFER!
INSTEAD OF BATTLING US IN HONORABLE FASHION--
-- THEY MERELY SEEK TO ENTANGLE US WITHIN THEIR YIELDING FORMS--
-- AND DROWN US BENEATH A SEA OF SMOTHERING MUCK!

IT IS DONE!
THOUGH IT PAINED ME TO EMPLOY SUCH PUNISHING TACTICS, I HAD LITTLE CHOICE!
I MUST CONTENT MYSELF WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MY CAUSE BE JUST, AND MY GOAL RIGHTEOUS!
THE TIME IS COME FOR ME TO RETURN MY MINDLESS PETS TO THEIR TRUE FORMS--
-- AND THEN SHALL I GATHER MY PRIZE!
THOUGH I PITY THESE FALLEN TWO, I MUST STEEL MYSELF--
-- PUTTING ASIDE MY OWN LESSER EMOTIONS FOR THE GREATER GOOD!
FOR NO MERE INDIVIDUAL-- NO MATTER HOW NOBLE OR PRECIOUS-- CAN BE VALUED ABOVE THE VERY SURVIVAL OF THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!

FOR AN INDETERMINATE TIME, HE DREAMS--!
HIS MIND FILLED WITH MEMORIES OF YOUTHFUL YEARS IN ZENN-LA, A VIRTUAL NIRVANA WHICH HAD ELIMINATED ALL WAR, ALL CRIME, ALL ILLNESS.
THEN HE RECALLS THE SCARRED RUINS WHICH ARE ALL THAT REMAIN OF THIS ONCE-WONDROUS PARADISE, AND HE SHUDDERS.
AND, IN THAT VERY INSTANT, HE AWAKES--
-- TO HORROR MOST FOUL!
WH-WHAT IS THIS MADNESS?

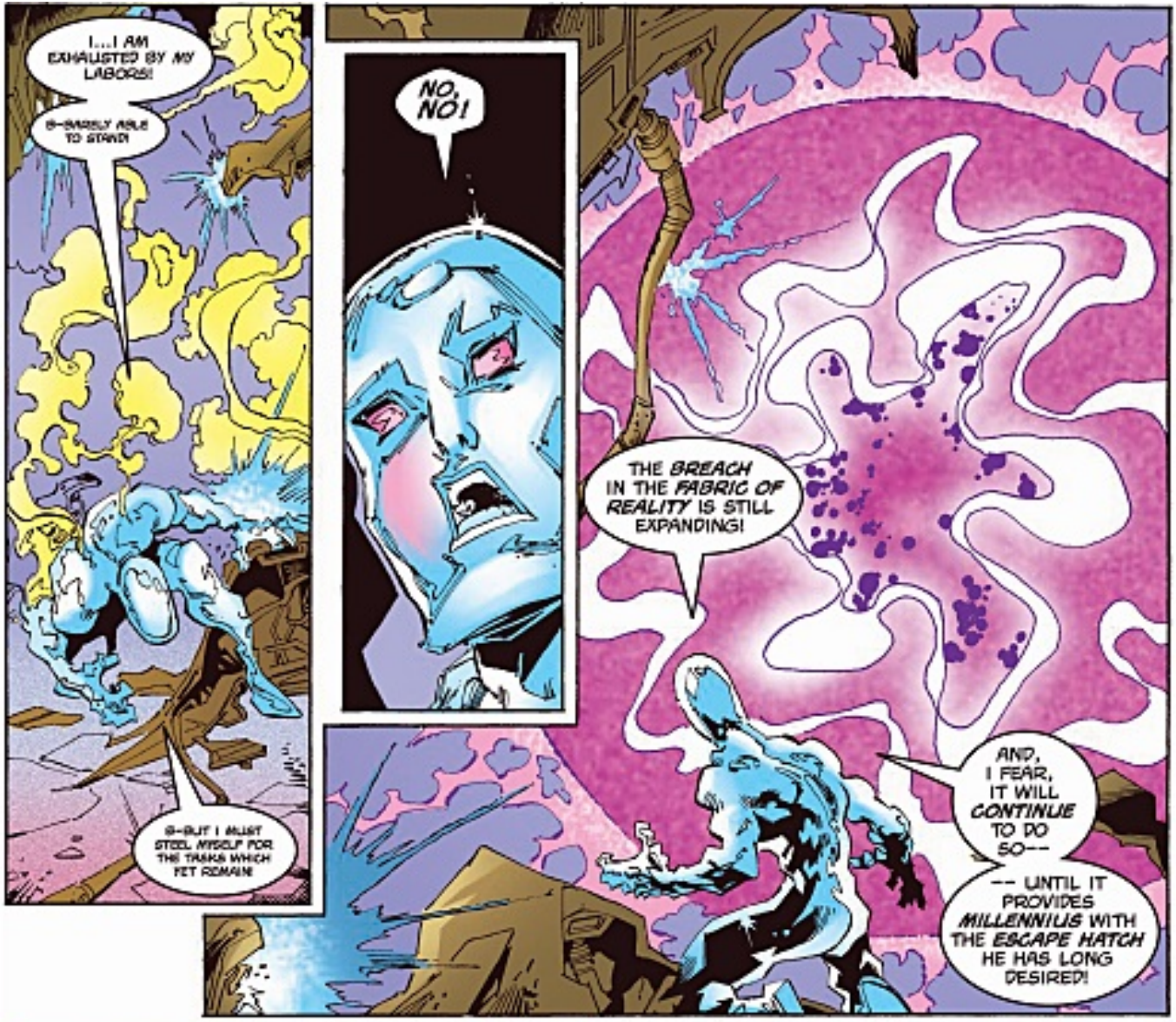
NOT MADNESS, MY POOR FRIEND-- NECESSITY!
I TRULY REGRET THAT I MUST SUBJECT YOU TO THE AGONY WHICH IS TO COME, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!
ZZAKK!
IF IT IS ANY CONSOLATION, PLEASE KNOW THAT YOUR SUFFERING WILL HELP ALLEVIATE THE PAIN OF MANY OTHERS!
ARRGHH!
W-WHO ARE YOU?
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I AM MILLEN-NIUS!
I SEEK FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR MYSELF--
-- AND SALVATION AND DELIVERANCE FOR INNUMERABLE INNOCENTS!
I HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN THIS NAMELESS LIMBO FOR COUNTLESS MILLENNIA-- A SIMPLE TERM WHICH, I HUMBLY BELIEVE, WAS COINED IN MY HONOR!
THE POWER COSMIC WHICH IS EVEN NOW BEING FUNNELED FROM YOUR RESISTING FORM WILL HELP ASSURE MY ESCAPE!
PLEASE BELIEVE THAT I HAVE NO WISH TO CAUSE YOU UNDUE HARM OR MISERY, BUT I MUST DRAIN ENOUGH TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS!
I-IF YOUR CAUSE BE AS NOBLE AS YOU PROCLAIM, WHY DO YOU ASSUME THAT I WILL NOT CHOOSE TO AID YOU?
I NEGLECTED TO MENTION THAT THIS PROCESS WILL SURELY CAUSE YOUR DEATH!
W-WHAT OF MY COMPANION?
W-WHERE IS MIGHTY THOR?!
HE IS AN HONORED GUEST WHO WILL BE ACCORDED EVERY POSSIBLE COURTESY.

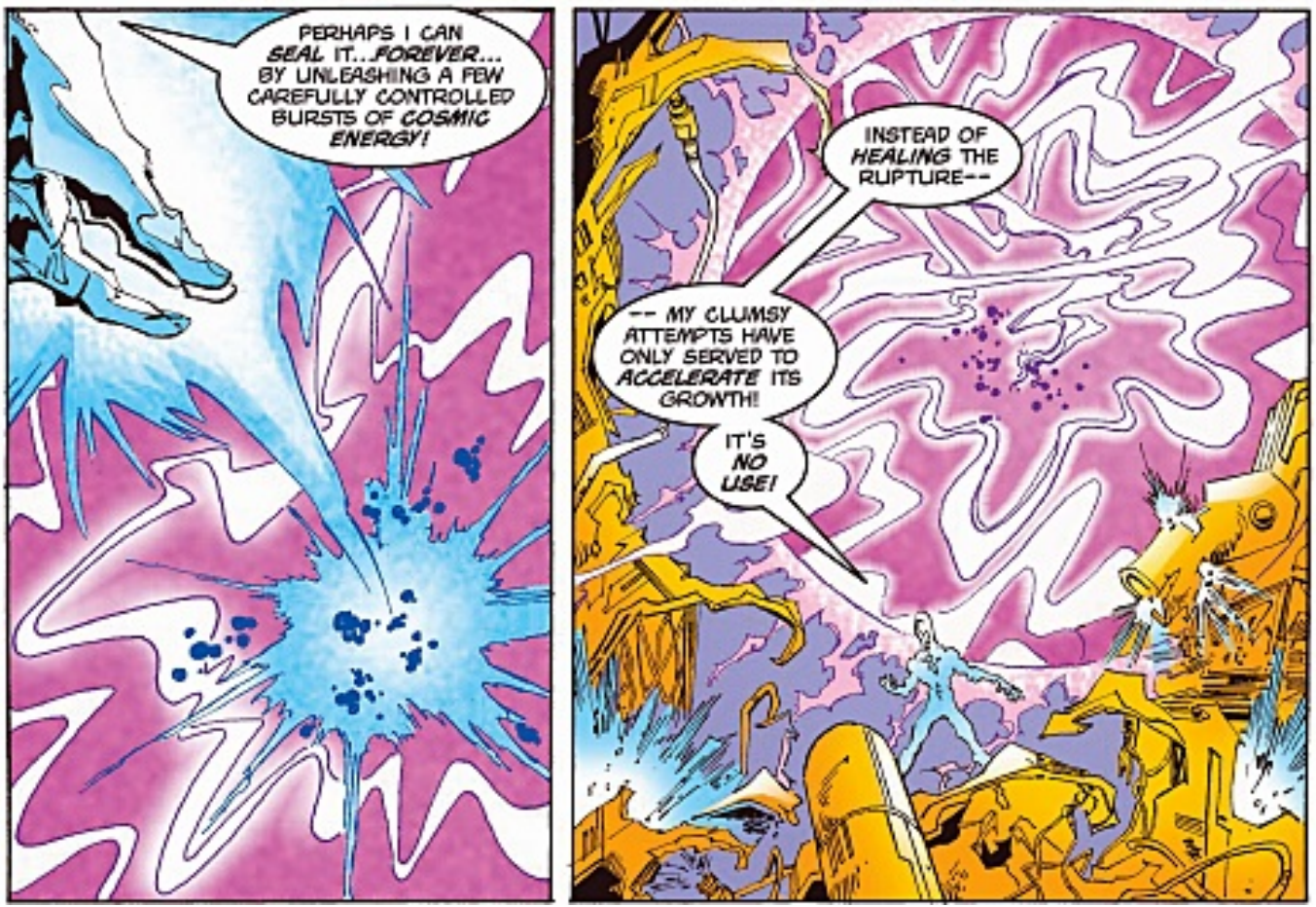

KER-PLASHH!!
WAKE UP, YOU MANGY CUR--!
W-WHO DARES--?!
NONE MAY SPEAK SO TO THOR, GOD OF THUNDER!
NONE SAVE MILLENNIUS!
MILLENNIUS?!
WHY DOES THAT NAME STRIKE SUCH A HAUNTING CHORD?
THINK, ASGARDIAN! REMEMBER THE SHAMEFUL HISTORY OF YOUR ACCURSED RACE--
-- AND RECALL THE NUMEROUS ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF YOUR SO-CALLED REALM ETERNAL!
ONLY ONE MILLENNIUS SPRINGS TO MIND...
A MAD AND MONSTROUS LEGEND WHOSE NAME IS USED TO FRIGHTEN SMALL ASGARDIAN CHILDREN!
A MERCILESS MURDERER WHO TRIED TO LAY WASTE TO WORLDS BEYOND NUMBER!

MAD?
MONSTROUS?
MERCILESS?
IS THIS HOW MY GLORIOUS LEGACY HAS BEEN DISTORTED DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES?!
I WAS NAUGHT BUT A COMPASSIONATE VISIONARY!
LIAR! THOU WOULDST EXTERMINATE ENTIRE CIVILIZATIONS!
TRUE, BUT MY ONLY DESIRE WAS TO SPARE FUTURE GENERATIONS NEEDLESS GRIEF!
AND I MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED--
-- HAD NOT YOUR VILLAINOUS FATHER, THE THRICE-CURSED ODIN, MARSHALED THE OTHER GODS AGAINST ME!
THY GOAL WAS MADNESS PURE!
THE TOTAL ERADICATION OF MORTALKIND!
A MOST AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVE, I WILL CERTAINLY ADMIT--
-- BUT UNQUESTIONABLY ADMIRABLE!

AARRGGHHH!
T-THE PAIN IS FAR GREATER THAN ANY I HAVE EVER KNOWN, BUT I CANNOT ALLOW IT TO DETER ME!
I...I MUST FIND A WAY TO SHATTER MY BONDS!
MORTALS HAVE NO INTRINSIC VALUE!
THEY BURN MUCH TOO BRIGHTLY, AND FAR TOO BRIEFLY!
THEIR DULL LIVES ARE FILLED WITH DISAPPOINTMENT AND DRUDGERY!
}UGNNN{
T-THE GATEWAY GROWS WIDER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT--!
SINCE DEATH IS THEIR FINAL DESTINATION, I MERELY ATTEMPTED TO SPARE THEM NEEDLESS MISERY BY HASTENING THE PROCESS!
YES, I DO CONCEDE THAT SUCH MASS DESTRUCTION WOULD BE BLOODY AND DISTASTEFUL--
-- BUT IT WOULD ONLY BE NECESSARY ONCE!
I...I CANNOT... I MUST NOT BE RESPONSIBLE... FOR UNLOOSING MILLENNIUS...UPON AN UNSUSPECTING UNIVERSE!
TRULY DOTH INSANITY POSSESS THEE!
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON!
IT WAS SHORT-SIGHTED CRETINS LIKE YOU WHO DARED IMPRISON ME!

T-THE FINAL DARKNESS BECKONS--!
F-FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL, I DARE NOT ACCEPT ITS ALLURING SUMMONS--!
YOU CANNOT PREVAIL, THUNDER GOD!
IT TOOK YOUR FATHER AND A LEGION OF OTHERS TO OVER-COME ME!
YOUR DESTINY IS TO *FALL*... WHILE MINE IS TO *TRIUMPH!*
NO!
NO!
NO!


I...I AM EXHAUSTED BY MY LABORS!
O--BARELY ABLE TO STAND!
O--BUT I MUST STEEL MYSELF FOR THE TASKS WHICH YET REMAIN!
NO, NO!
THE BREACH IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY IS STILL EXPANDING!
AND, I FEAR, IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO--
-- UNTIL IT PROVIDES MILLENNIUS WITH THE ESCAPE HATCH HE HAS LONG DESIRED!


PERHAPS I CAN SEAL IT...FOREVER... BY UNLEASHING A FEW CAREFULLY CONTROLLED BURSTS OF COSMIC ENERGY!
INSTEAD OF HEALING THE RUPTURE--
-- MY CLUMSY ATTEMPTS HAVE ONLY SERVED TO ACCELERATE ITS GROWTH!
IT'S NO USE!

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT MY CAUSE IS LOST...AND THE UNIVERSE IS FORFEIT!
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO STOP IT!
OF COURSE! IF MY POWER COSMIC BE FUTILE AGAINST THIS RUSHING TIDE--
-- THE ENCHANTED POWER OF ASGARD MAY YET SAVE THIS DAY!
THOR! I MUST FIND THE GOD OF THUNDER!
HIS MAGIC HAMMER MAY BE OUR SOLE HOPE!
STILL DO YOU DEFY ME!
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN I HAVE SENT YOU SMASHING TO THE GROUND, YOU CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AND FIGHT!
N-NEVER HATH THOR ACCEPTED THE CERTAINTY OF ANY DEFEAT!
NEVER WILL I SUR-RENDER!
SO BE IT!
IF I CANNOT CONQUER YOUR SPIRIT, I WILL SETTLE FOR YOUR BODY!
FAREWELL, THUNDER GOD! KNOW THAT YOUR DEATH SHALL HERALD A KINDER AND GENTLER UNIVERSE!
NOT SO, MONSTER--!

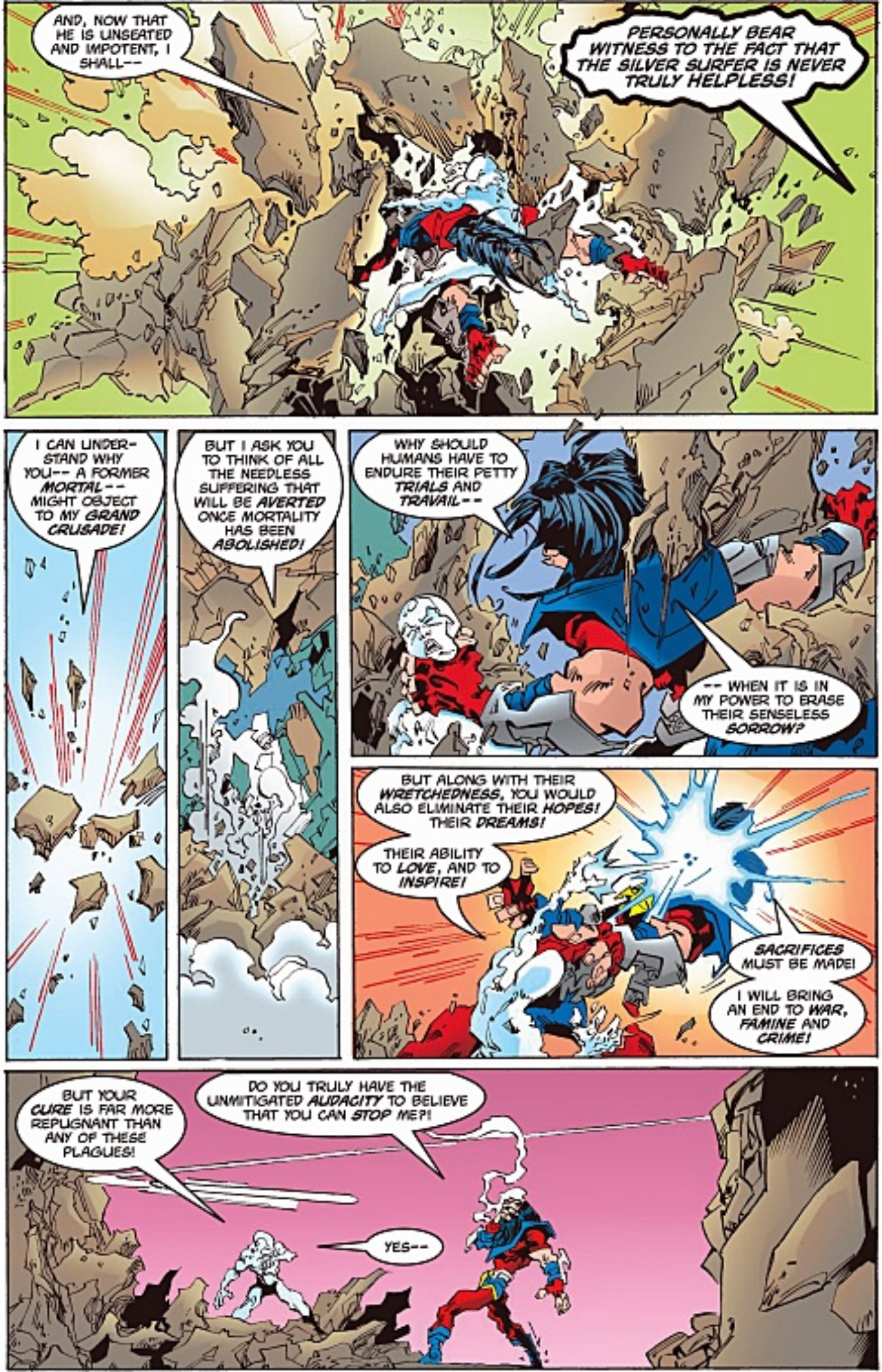
WE WOULD ALL BE DIMINISHED BY THE LOSS OF ONE SO VALIANT AND NOBLE!

THY ARRIVAL IS AS *UNEXPECTED* AS IT BE *WELCOMED*, SURFER!
TOGETHER SHALL WE NOW JOIN IN *COMMON CAUSE* AGAINST THIS MERCILESS TRANSGRESSOR!

THOUGH I WOULD BE HONORED TO FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE, THUNDERER--
-- IT *CANNOT BE!*
YOU ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED *ELSE-WHERE!*
ONLY YOU CAN SECURE THE *RIFT* WHICH EVEN NOW THREATENS TO LIBERATE OUR CONTEMPTIBLE FOE!

SO! MY MACHINES HAVE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE!
ESCAPE IS WITHIN MY GRASP!

I MUST BE FREE!
I WILL BE FREE!
AND NONE CAN DENY ME!
THOUGH MY WARRIOR'S SOUL DOTH BRISTLE AT THE THOUGHT OF FLIGHT, I SHALL NOT QUESTION THY WISDOM!
GO!
HURRY!
TIME HAS ALLIED ITSELF WITH MILLENNIUS, AND EVEN NOW WORKS AGAINST US!
COURAGE, MY FRIEND!
WHATE'ER OBSTACLES I MAY FACE, THE SON OF ODIN WILL NOT FAIL--
-- AND HE SHALL RETURN FOR THEE!
BUT HE IS MORE THAN LIKELY TO FIND THE SURFER'S BLOODIED CORPSE!
THIS SHOCK-WAVE WILL CATCH THE SKY RIDER BY SURPRISE, AND SEPARATE HIM FROM HIS STREAKING BOARD!

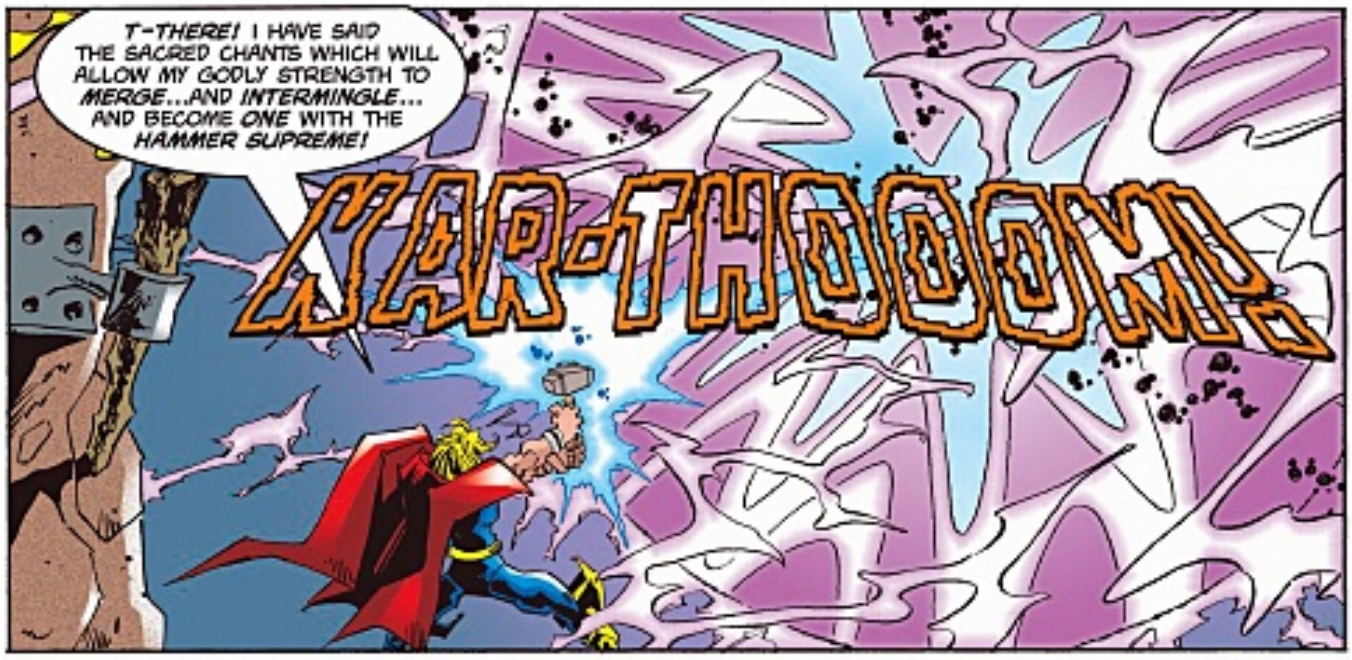

AND, NOW THAT HE IS UNSEATED AND IMPOTENT, I SHALL--
PERSONALLY BEAR WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT THE SILVER SURFER IS NEVER TRULY HELPLESS!
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU-- A FORMER MORTAL-- MIGHT OBJECT TO MY GRAND CRUSADE!
BUT I ASK YOU TO THINK OF ALL THE NEEDLESS SUFFERING THAT WILL BE AVERTED ONCE MORTALITY HAS BEEN ABOLISHED!
WHY SHOULD HUMANS HAVE TO ENDURE THEIR PETTY TRIALS AND TRAVAIL--
-- WHEN IT IS IN MY POWER TO ERASE THEIR SENSELESS SORROW?
BUT ALONG WITH THEIR WRETCHEDNESS, YOU WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE THEIR HOPES! THEIR DREAMS!
THEIR ABILITY TO LOVE, AND TO INSPIRE!
SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE!
I WILL BRING AN END TO WAR, FAMINE AND CRIME!
BUT YOUR CURE IS FAR MORE REPUGNANT THAN ANY OF THESE PLAGUES!
DO YOU TRULY HAVE THE UNMITIGATED AUDACITY TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN STOP ME?!
YES--

-- BUT ONLY WITH THE AID OF MY EVER-FAITHFUL SURFBOARD!
LISTEN TO ME, MILLENNIUS--! I KNOW THAT YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF YOUR CAUSE--
-- BUT MANKIND HAS A RIGHT TO ITS OWN MISTAKES!
LIFE IS PRECIOUS IN WHATEVER FORM IT CHOOSES TO MANIFEST!
EVEN THE GODS KNOW DISCORD!
HUMANS MAY SUFFER, BUT THEY CAN ALSO APPRECIATE AND ENJOY!
AND THEIR SPIRITS CAN FLY FAR BEYOND THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES!
YOUR WORDS MAY BE POETIC--
-- BUT HARDLY CONVINCING!
HISTORY WILL JUDGE US GENERATIONS FROM NOW, AND I HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT MINE WILL BE THE MORE WIDELY HAILED VISION!

THOUGH YOU ARE MISGUIDED, I FIND YOU WELL-INTENTIONED AND HONORABLE.
THUS, I WILL ELIMINATE YOU AS QUICKLY AND PAINLESSLY AS POSSIBLE!
MEANWHILE...
THE DAMAGE IS FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN E'ER I FEARED!
SOON WILL THE FRACTURE REACH CRITICAL MASS!
NO SIMPLE SPELL WILL END THIS MENACE!
FALL, SURFER! FALL!
POWERFUL AS YOU MAY BE, YOU CANNOT WITHSTAND THE FULL WRATH OF ONE WHO FORCED EVEN THE GODS TO KNEEL!
ODIN, HIMSELF, BARELY SURVIVED AGAINST ME!

IF I AM TO COLLAPSE THIS CREVICE, I MUST CALL FORTH THE MOST INVINCIBLE ASGARDIAN POWER OF ALL...
THE GODLY LIFEFORCE WHICH FLOWS THROUGH US ALL, AND GRANTS EVERY ASGARDIAN HIS VERY IMMORTALITY!

ARE YOU MAD, SURFER?!
WHY DO YOU PROLONG THIS UNNECESSARY AGONY?
WHY PERSIST WHEN MY ULTIMATE VICTORY IS ASSURED?
L-LIKE MAN HIMSELF, I STRUGGLE BECAUSE I LIVE!
SO LONG AS I CONTINUE TO LIVE, I WILL HOPE!
AND HE THAT HAS HOPE CANNOT EVER BE CONQUERED!


T-THERE! I HAVE SAID THE SACRED CHANTS WHICH WILL ALLOW MY GODLY STRENGTH TO MERGE...AND INTERMINGLE... AND BECOME ONE WITH THE HAMMER SUPREME!
KA-THOOM!

AND, SIMULTANEOUSLY...
URKKK
KA-KA-BOOM!
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! NOT EVEN MIGHTY MILLENNIUS CAN TRIUMPH OVER ONE WHO IS TOO STUBBORN TO YIELD!

'T-TIS DONE!
THE THREAT IS PASSED! THE BREACH IS NO MORE!
B-BUT WHAT OF THE VALIANT SILVER SURFER!
"DOES HE YET SURVIVE?!"
L-LUCK WAS TRULY WITH ME!
MILLENNIUS BROKE OFF HIS ATTACK WITH BARELY A MOMENT TO SPARE!
ANOTHER INSTANT AND I WOULD HAVE SURELY BEEN OBLITERATED!
I MUST GATHER WHAT STRENGTH REMAINS, AND PREPARE MYSELF BEFORE--
SPWA-QWOOM!
TOO LATE, SURFER!
MILLENNIUS HAS ALREADY RECOVERED, AND RENEWED HIS ASSAULT!
YOU PUT UP A NOBLE-- THOUGH ULTIMATELY FUTILE-- RESISTANCE! WHILE I CANNOT CONDONE YOUR EFFORTS, I CAN-- AT LEAST-- RESPECT THEM!
I WILL MAKE A SINCERE ATTEMPT TO REMEMBER YOU AS THE YEARS PASS, AND TO--EH?!
IF ANYONE WILL NEED TO BE REMEMBERED--
PWOOM!
--'TIS THEE!

NONE MAY THREATEN THE SILVER SURFER WHILST THOR LIVES!
AND THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THOR WHILE THE SILVER SURFER STILL BREATHES!
H-HAVE YOU BOTH TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES?
YOU HAVE WITNESSED MY POWER!
SEEN THE ASTOUNDING FEATS WHICH ONLY MILLENNIUS CAN ACCOMPLISH!!
AND, YET, STILL YOU DARE--
TO
DEFY
MEEEEEEE

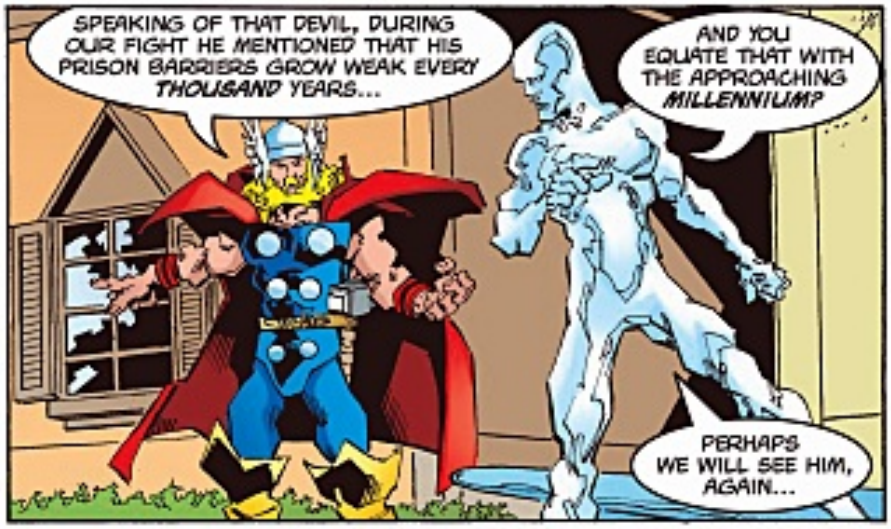
WE HAVE ONLY WON A MOMENTARY RESPITE!
HIS POWER WILL RETURN ALL TOO QUICKLY, AND WE ARE ILL-PREPARED FOR A PROLONGED BATTLE!
THEN, WE MUST FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION--!
I CAN EMPLOY MY POWER COSMIC TO GATHER ALL THE NEARBY DEBRIS--
-- AND RECONSTRUCT IT INTO A MASSIVE RESTRAINT!
AYE, BUT EVEN THAT WILL NOT HOLD MILLENNIUS FOR LONG!
BEHOLD! HE ALREADY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS--!
MAYBE SO, BUT I'M NOT YET FINISHED--!
I INTEND TO SEND HIM DOWN...DOWN... DOWN...TO THE VERY CENTER OF THIS LOST AND UNHOLY WORLD!
HE WILL, OF COURSE, ESCAPE WITHIN MINUTES--
-- BUT WE WILL BE GONE BEFORE HE REACHES THE SURFACE!
AYE, ESPECIALLY IF I ADD MY OWN LITTLE TOUCH TO THIS MOST IMPRESSIVE HANDIWORK...

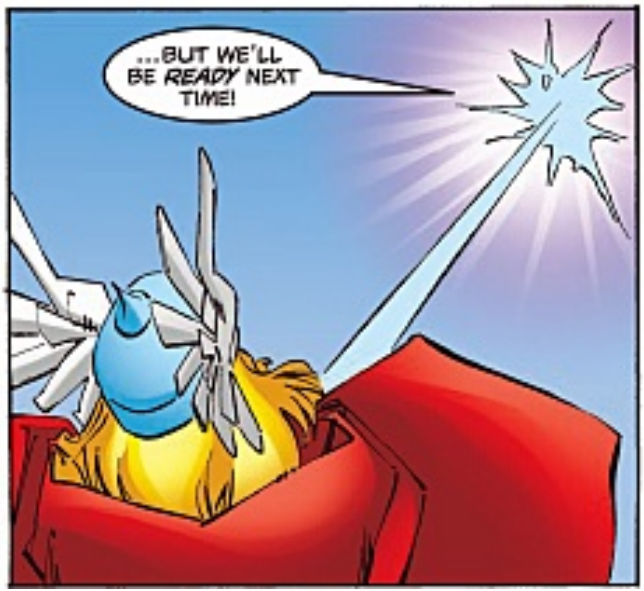
THERE! HIS VERY CASTLE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEBRIS WHICH BLOCKS HIS EXIT!
MAYHAPS IT WILL BUY US AN ADDITIONAL SECOND OR TWO--!
THAT WILL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME--
-- FOR ME TO EXCEED THE SPEED OF LIGHT--
-- AND ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY VELOCITY--
-- TO ESCAPE THIS UNNAMED PLANE OF REALITY--
-- AND RETURN HOME!

WE MADE IT... BUT OUR TRIP WAS IN VAIN!
FOR ALL OUR EFFORTS, WE ARE NO CLOSER TO THE ANSWERS ORIGINALLY SOUGHT!
AND ANOTHER JOURNEY ISN'T PRACTICAL WHILE WE ARE BOTH ON THE PRECIPICE OF EXHAUSTION!
AYE, EVEN WITH HIS CASTLE DESTROYED, MILLENNIUS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
HE MAY HAVE PREPARED OTHER TRAPS FOR THE UNWARY!

BUT I SWEAR THAT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL!
I SHALL EVENTUALLY LEARN THE AUTHOR OF ASGARD'S DESTRUCTION... AND THEN SHALL HE PAY!
I SINCERELY WISH YOU SUCCESS, MY FRIEND!

BUT I MUST ALSO CAUTION YOU!
TAKE SPECIAL CARE THAT YOU DO NOT ALLOW YOUR NOBLE QUEST TO FESTER INTO A BASE OBSESSION--
-- OR YOU COULD BECOME THE NEXT MILLENNIUS!

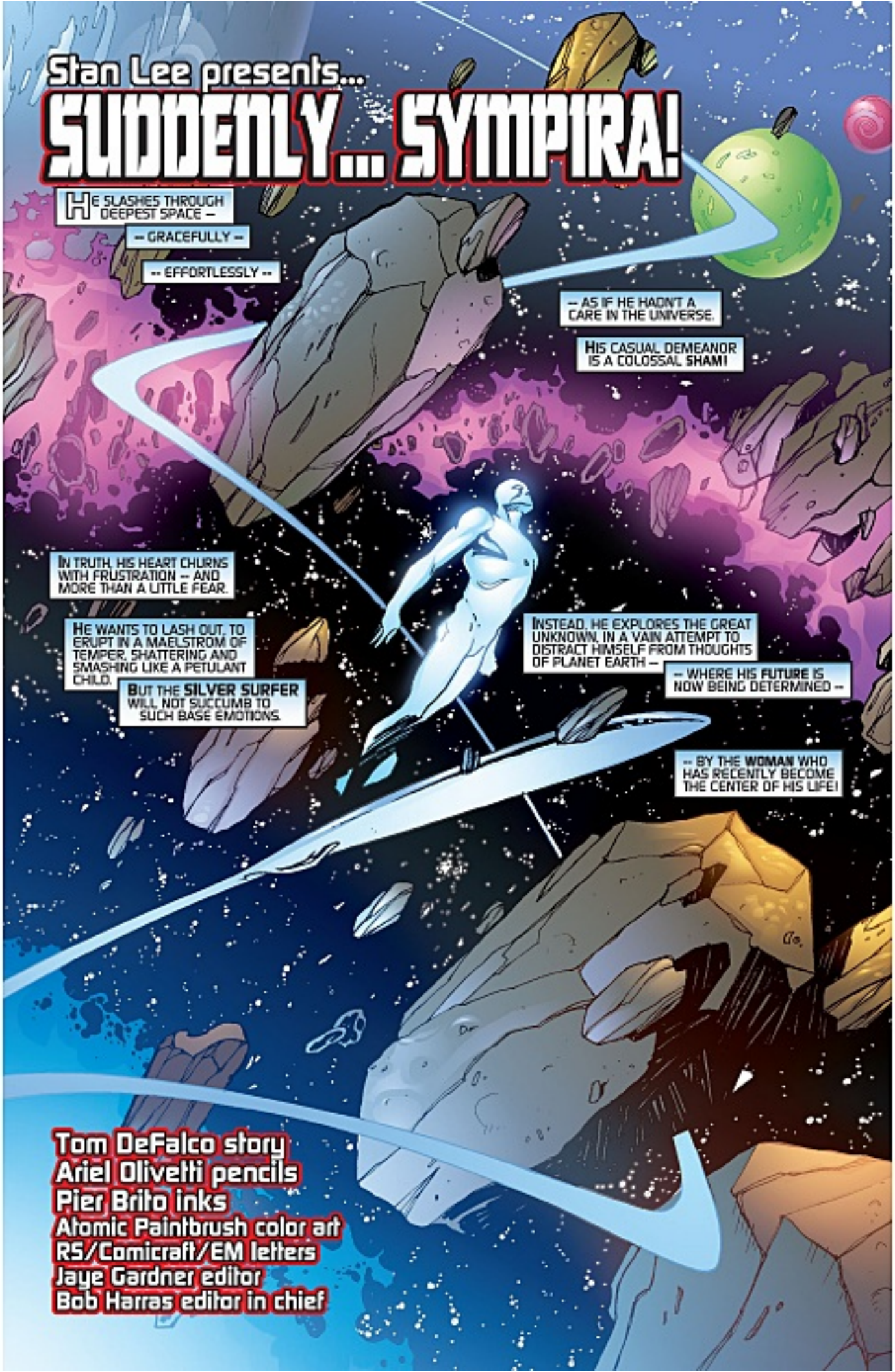

SPEAKING OF THAT DEVIL, DURING OUR FIGHT HE MENTIONED THAT HIS PRISON BARRIERS GROW WEAK EVERY THOUSAND YEARS...
AND YOU EQUATE THAT WITH THE APPROACHING MILLENNIUM?
PERHAPS WE WILL SEE HIM, AGAIN...

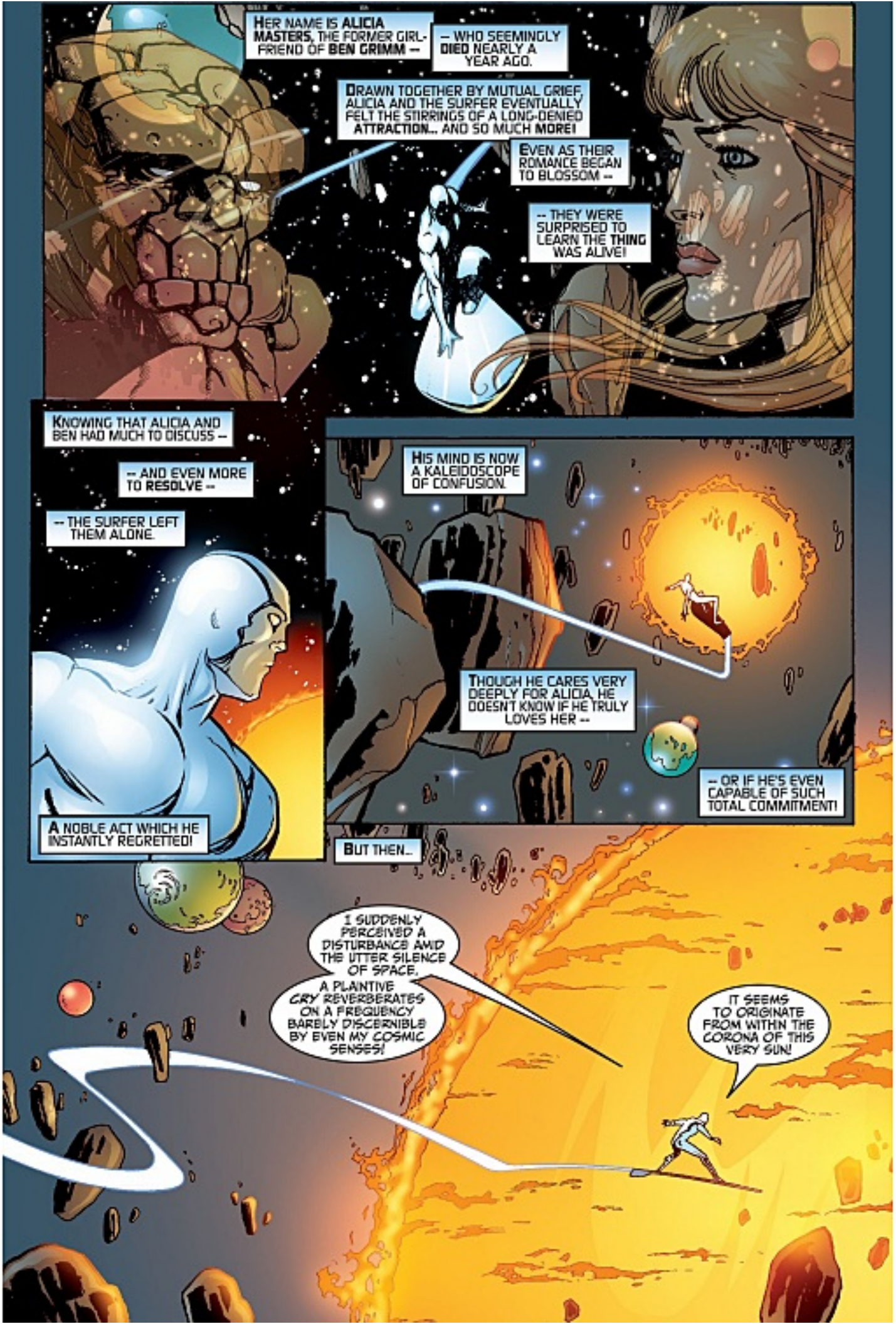

...BUT WE'LL BE READY NEXT TIME!

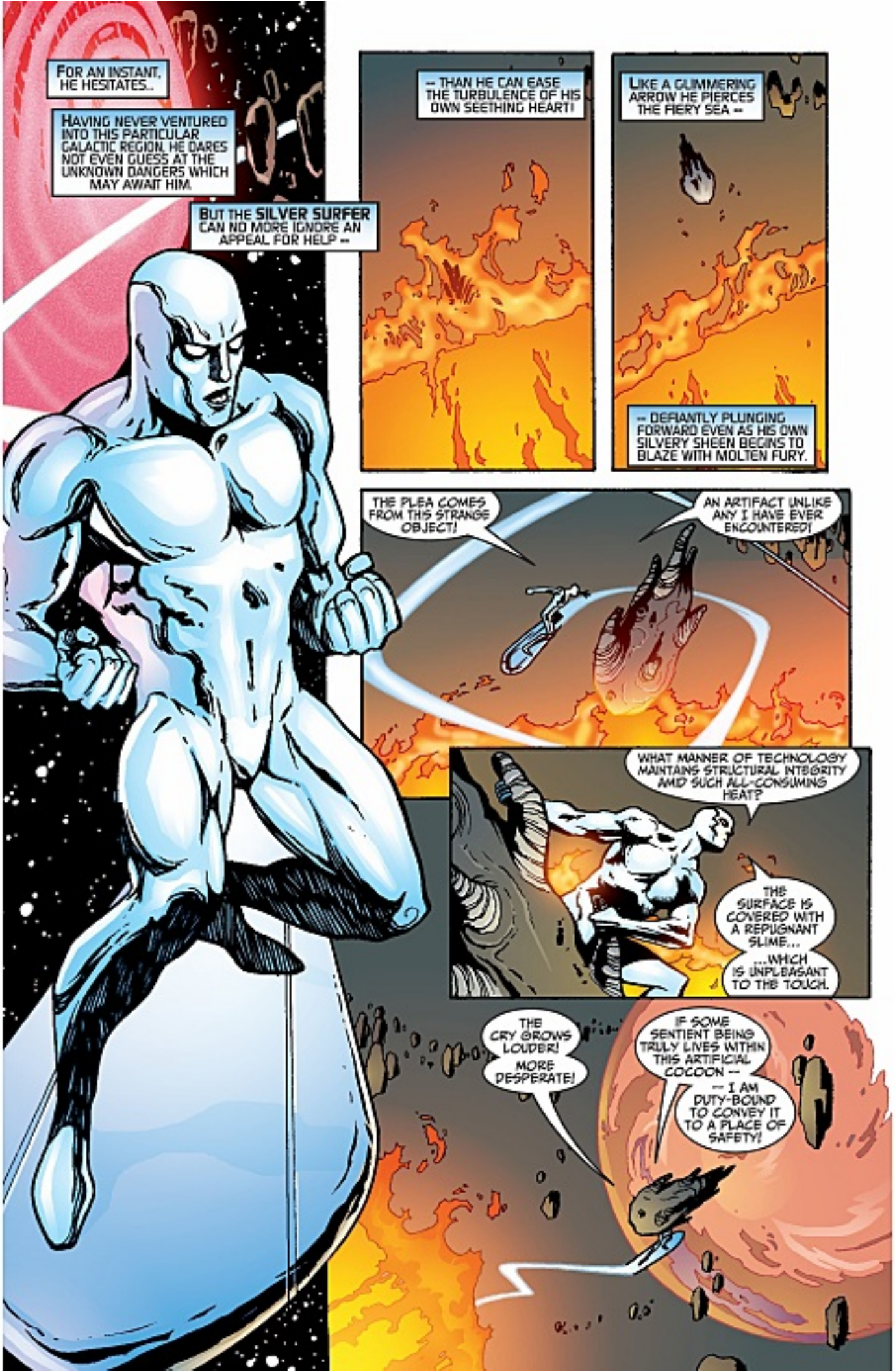
AYE...
SO WE SHALL, MY FRIEND!

FOOLS!
THE ARROGANT AND UTTER FOOLS!
DO THEY TRULY BELIEVE THAT ONE SUCH AS I WILL EVER ACCEPT DEFEAT?
THAT I WILL EVER ABANDON MY MOST HOLY CRUSADE?
SOON--!
MY TIME WILL SOON COME!
FOR RIGHT IS ON MY SIDE--
-- AND I AM DESTINED TO TRIUMPH!
I AM MILLENNIUS!
MILLENNIUS!
NEVER... THE END!

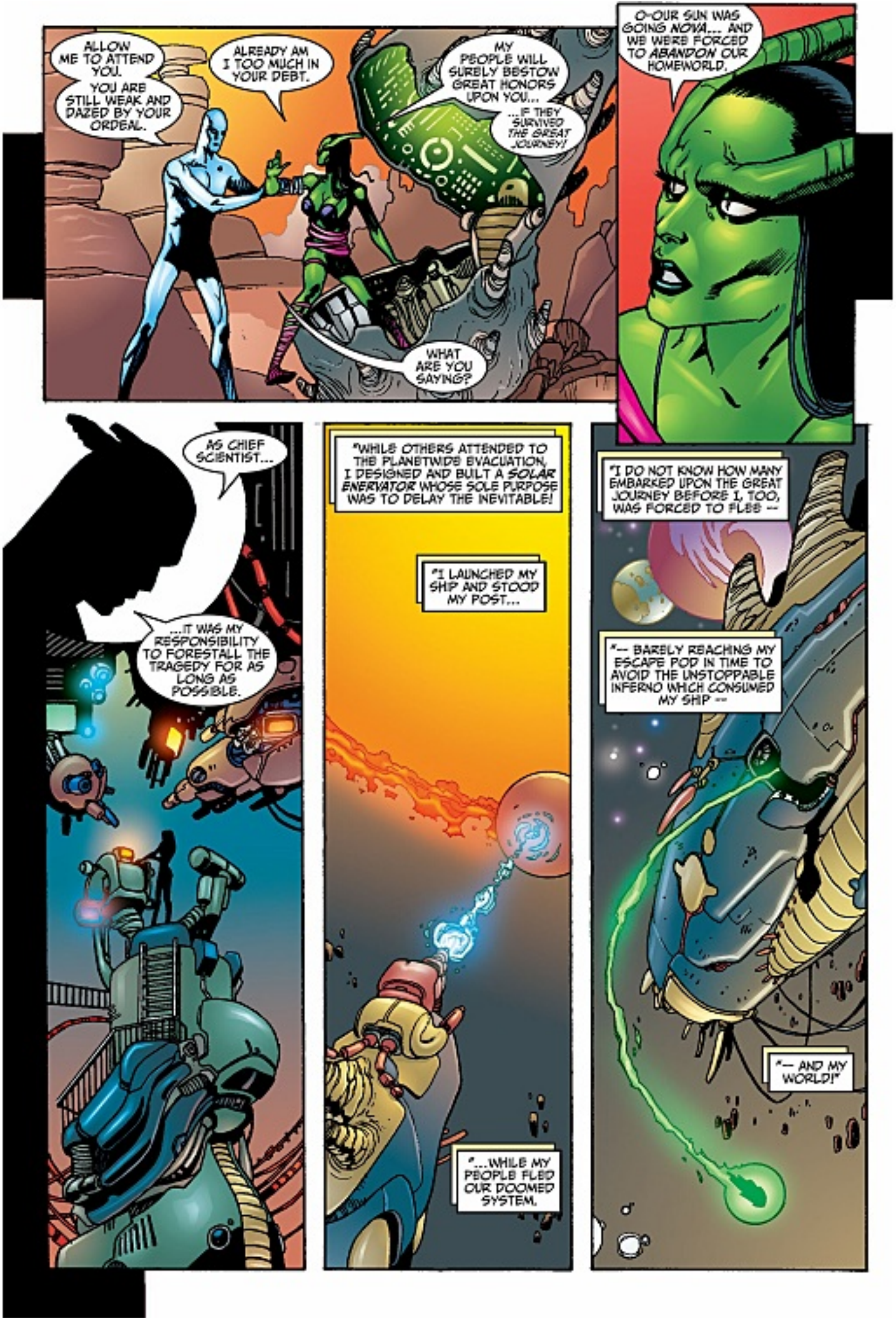
WIZARD
NO.
1/2
MARVEL COMICS
SILVER SURFER
OLIVETTI '97
atomic


Stan Lee presents...
SUDDENLY... SYMPIRA!
He slashes through deepest space --
-- gracefully --
-- effortlessly --
-- as if he hadn't a care in the universe.
His casual demeanor is a colossal SHAM!
In truth, his heart churns with frustration -- and more than a little fear.
He wants to lash out, to erupt in a maelstrom of temper, shattering and smashing like a petulant child.
But the SILVER SURFER will not succumb to such base emotions.
Instead, he explores the great unknown, in a vain attempt to distract himself from thoughts of planet Earth --
-- where his FUTURE is now being determined --
-- by the WOMAN who has recently become the center of his life!
Tom DeFalco story
Ariel Olivetti pencils
Pier Brito inks
Atomic Paintbrush color art
RS/Comicraft/EM letters
Jaye Gardner editor
Bob Harras editor in chief


HER NAME IS ALICIA MASTERS, THE FORMER GIRLFRIEND OF BEN GRIMM --
-- WHO SEEMINGLY DIED NEARLY A YEAR AGO.
DRAWN TOGETHER BY MUTUAL GRIEF, ALICIA AND THE SURFER EVENTUALLY FELT THE STIRRINGS OF A LONG-DENIED ATTRACTION... AND SO MUCH MORE!
EVEN AS THEIR ROMANCE BEGAN TO BLOSSOM --
-- THEY WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THE THING WAS ALIVE!
KNOWING THAT ALICIA AND BEN HAD MUCH TO DISCUSS --
-- AND EVEN MORE TO RESOLVE --
-- THE SURFER LEFT THEM ALONE.
A NOBLE ACT WHICH HE INSTANTLY REGRETTED!
HIS MIND IS NOW A KALEIDOSCOPE OF CONFUSION.
THOUGH HE CARES VERY DEEPLY FOR ALICIA, HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE TRULY LOVES HER --
-- OR IF HE'S EVEN CAPABLE OF SUCH TOTAL COMMITMENT!
BUT THEN...
I SUDDENLY PERCEIVED A DISTURBANCE AMID THE UTTER SILENCE OF SPACE.
A PLAINTIVE CRY REVERBERATES ON A FREQUENCY BARELY DISCERNIBLE BY EVEN MY COSMIC SENSES!
IT SEEMS TO ORIGINATE FROM WITHIN THE CORONA OF THIS VERY SUN!


FOR AN INSTANT, HE HESITATES...
HAVING NEVER VENTURED INTO THIS PARTICULAR GALACTIC REGION, HE DARES NOT EVEN GUESS AT THE UNKNOWN DANGERS WHICH MAY AWAIT HIM.
BUT THE SILVER SURFER CAN NO MORE IGNORE AN APPEAL FOR HELP --
-- THAN HE CAN EASE THE TURBULENCE OF HIS OWN SEETHING HEART!
LIKE A GLIMMERING ARROW HE PIERCES THE FIERY SEA --
-- DEFIANTLY PLUNGING FORWARD EVEN AS HIS OWN SILVERY SHEEN BEGINS TO BLAZE WITH MOLTEN FURY.
THE PLEA COMES FROM THIS STRANGE OBJECT!
AN ARTIFACT UNLIKE ANY I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
WHAT MANNER OF TECHNOLOGY MAINTAINS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AMID SUCH ALL-CONSUMING HEAT?
THE SURFACE IS COVERED WITH A REPUGNANT SLIME...
...WHICH IS UNPLEASANT TO THE TOUCH.
THE CRY GROWS LOUDER! MORE DESPERATE!
IF SOME SENTIENT BEING TRULY LIVES WITHIN THIS ARTIFICIAL COCOON --
-- I AM DUTY-BOUND TO CONVEY IT TO A PLACE OF SAFETY!

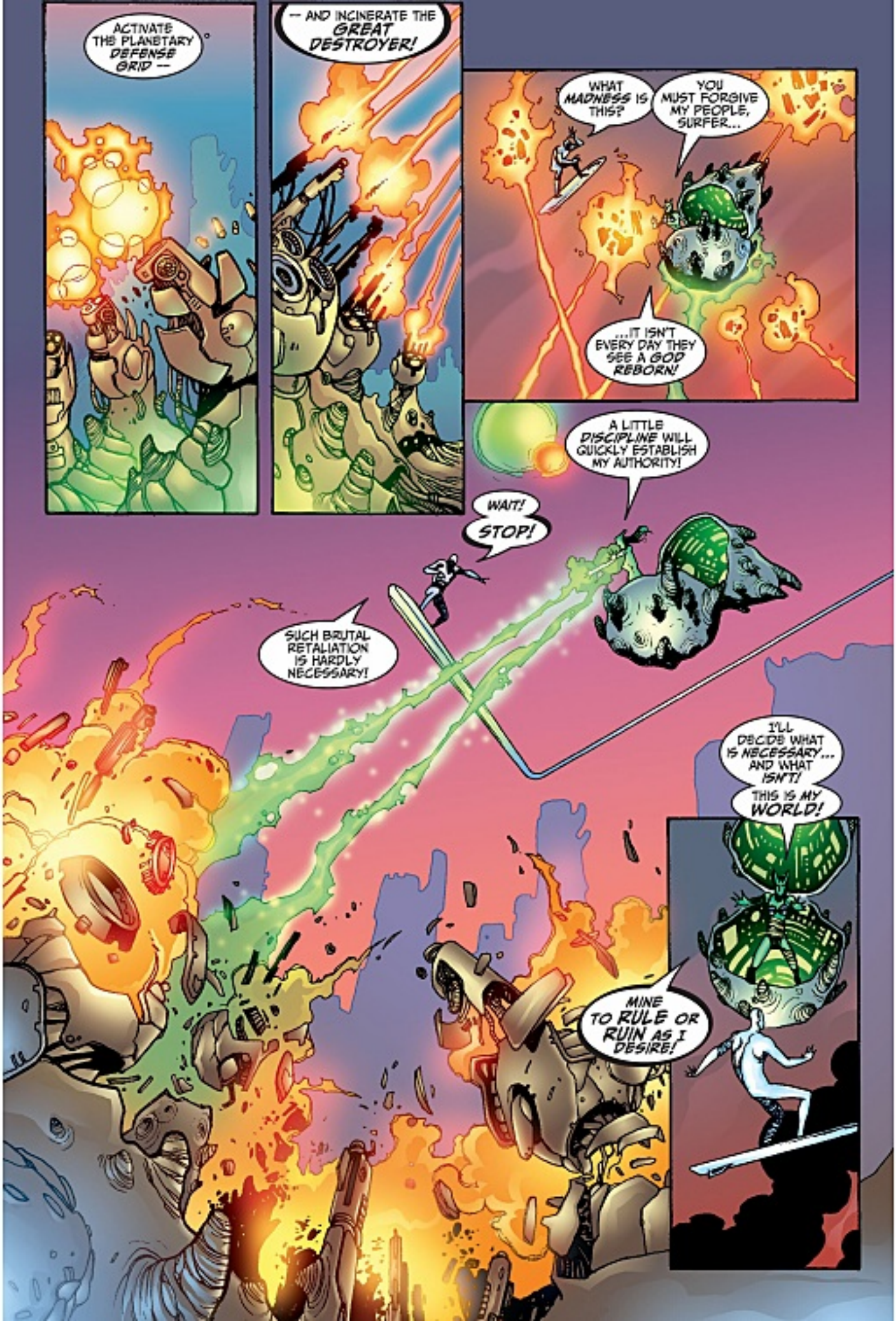
HERE! ON THIS SMALL, UNINHABITED PLANETOID I SHALL EXAMINE MY PRIZE!
IF PERIL SHOULD THREATEN --
-- IT WILL BE MINE ALONE!
EMPLOYING THE POWER COSMIC GRANTED TO HIM BY HIS FORMER MASTER, GALACTUS --
-- THE SURFER ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE AND COMMUNE WITH THE ALIEN SHELL.
A VORTEX OF UNNAMED ENERGIES SWIRL ABOUT THEM FOR A HANDFUL OF MOMENTS, AND THEN..
AT LAST! A PASSENGER IS REVEALED --!
WHO ARE YOU? FROM WHERE DO YOU COME?
AND WHY WERE YOU LOCKED IN THE EMBRACE OF LIVING SUN?
S-SO MANY QUESTIONS... BUT YOU, WHO HAVE SAVED ME FROM ENDLESS TORMENT, ARE CERTAINLY DESERVING OF SUCH ANSWERS!
MY PEOPLE CALL ME SYMPIRA --
-- AND MY MISSION WAS ONE OF PROFOUND MERCY!


ALLOW ME TO ATTEND YOU.
YOU ARE STILL WEAK AND DAZED BY YOUR ORDEAL.
ALREADY AM I TOO MUCH IN YOUR DEBT.
MY PEOPLE WILL SURELY BESTOW GREAT HONORS UPON YOU...
...IF THEY SURVIVED THE GREAT JOURNEY!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
O-OUR SUN WAS GOING NOVA... AND WE WERE FORCED TO ABANDON OUR HOMEWORLD.
AS CHIEF SCIENTIST...
...IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO FORESTALL THE TRAGEDY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
"WHILE OTHERS ATTENDED TO THE PLANETWIDE EVACUATION, I DESIGNED AND BUILT A SOLAR ENERVATOR WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO DELAY THE INEVITABLE!
"I LAUNCHED MY SHIP AND STOOD MY POST...
"...WHILE MY PEOPLE FLED OUR DOOMED SYSTEM.
"I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY EMBARKED UPON THE GREAT JOURNEY BEFORE I, TOO, WAS FORCED TO FLEE --
"-- BARELY REACHING MY ESCAPE POD IN TIME TO AVOID THE UNSTOPPABLE INFERNO WHICH CONSUMED MY SHIP --
"-- AND MY WORLD!"

MY POD IMMEDIATELY PLACED ME INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
I CANNOT SAY HOW I CAME TO BE TRAPPED WITHIN A SECOND SUN... NOR CAN I JUDGE THE LENGTH OF TIME I WAS THUS ENTOMBED.
IF MY PEOPLE DID SURVIVE, I KNOW THEIR FINAL DESTINATION... AND MUST BE REUNITED WITH THEM.
I WILL GLADLY AID IN YOUR QUEST.
COME! THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST SHOW YOU!
BEHOLD! IT IS AS I SUSPECTED!
MY STRENGTH HAS FULLY RETURNED... FAR GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE!
INCREDIBLE! YOU ARE RADIATING AN ENERGY FLUX WHICH CLOSELY RESEMBLES MY OWN POWER COSMIC!
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT MY LONG EXPOSURE TO SOLAR ENERGIES... ...HAS SOMEHOW ENDOWED ME WITH POWER BEYOND IMAGINATION!
TOGETHER SHALL WE SEEK MY ERRANT PEOPLE --
-- BUT WE SHALL DO SO AS EQUALS!
RARELY HAS THE SILVER SURFER KNOWN SUCH COMPANIONSHIP.
RARER STILL HAS HE CHANCED UPON ANOTHER WHOSE OWN SENSE OF DUTY AND SELF-SACRIFICE SO CLOSELY MIRRORS HIS OWN.

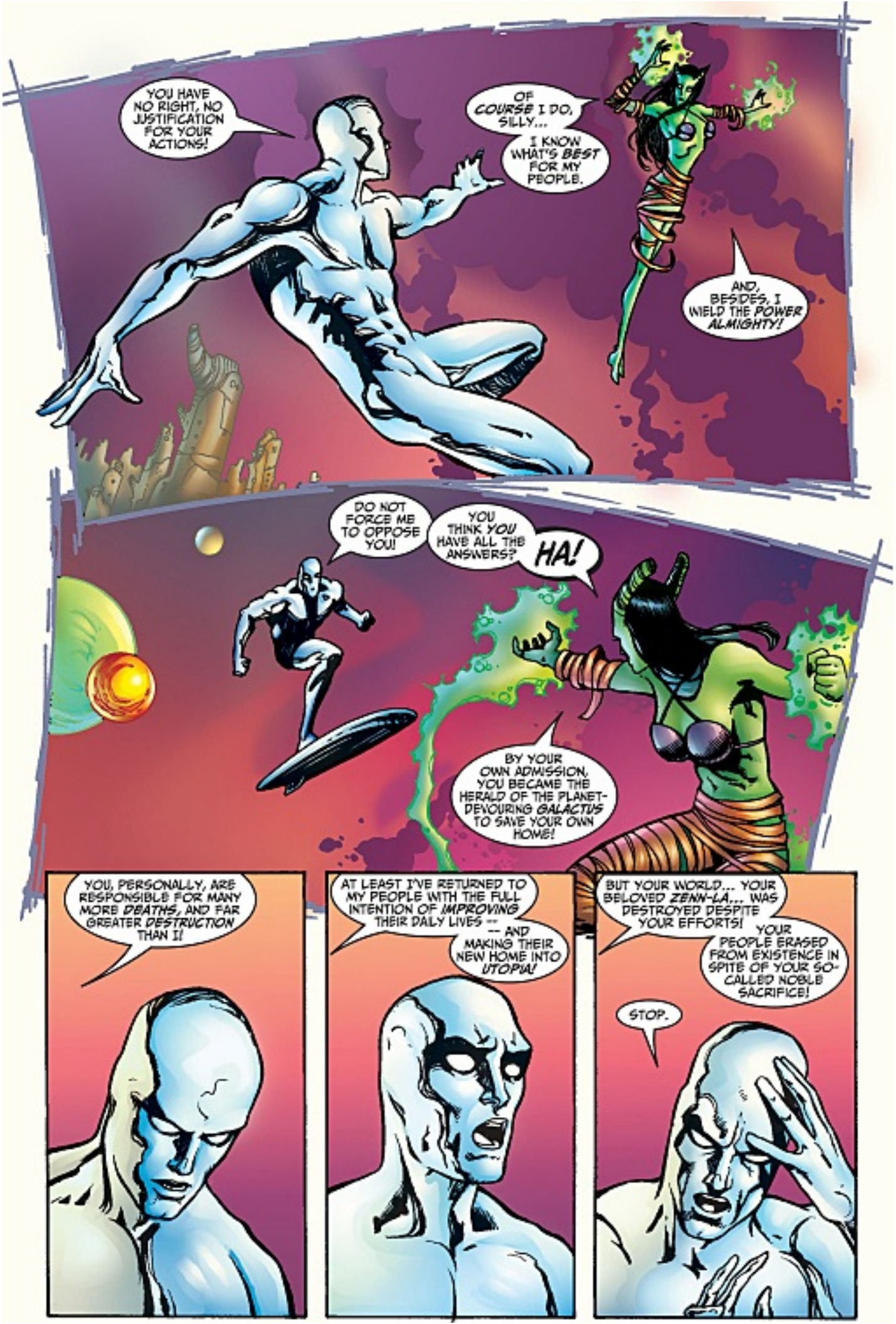
OBLIVIOUS TO THE PASSING TIME, THEY DETOUR TO EXPLORE VARIOUS ASTRAL ANOMALIES AND CURIOUS STELLAR PHENOMENA.
AND THEY TALK...
...THE SURFER TELLS OF HIS PAST, OF HOW HE BECAME THE HERALD OF GALACTUS TO SAVE HIS OWN HOMEWORLD.
HE SPEAKS OF RECENT CONFRONTATIONS WITH ENTITIES SUCH AS THE DREADED MEPHISTO...
THE ALL-POWERFUL COSMIC MESSIAH!
THE ENIGMATIC SCRIER!
THE SUPREMELY SINISTER OTHER!
AND THE MERCILESS MILLENNIUS!
BUT, MOST IN ALL, HE DISCUSSES HIS HOPES... HIS DREAMS... AND HIS INSECURITIES ABOUT ALICIA MASTERS.
SYMPIRA PROVES A SYMPATHETIC AND ATTENTIVE AUDIENCE, HUNGRY FOR THE SMALLEST DETAIL.

HOW LONG THEY JOURNEY, NEITHER CAN SAY.
THEY MERELY REVEL IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY UNTIL...
THAT DISTANT SPHERE WAS TO BE OUR TARGET WORLD --!
HURRY! I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE IF MY PEOPLE SURVIVED THEIR TREK!
YES! YES! THEY HAVE EVEN PROSPERED, AND BUILT A NEW CIVILIZATION!
LOOK! IT IS THE PROMISED ONE --!
SHE HAS RETURNED TO US... AS FORETOLD IN THE ANCIENT PROPHECIES!
B-BUT I THOUGHT SYMPIRA WAS ONLY A LEGEND --!
CLEAR THE STREETS! WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT EVER SINCE OUR ANCESTORS FIRST ARRIVED ON THIS WORLD CENTURIES AGO!


ACTIVATE THE PLANETARY DEFENSE GRID --
-- AND INCINERATE THE GREAT DESTROYER!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?
YOU MUST FORGIVE MY PEOPLE, SURFER...
...IT ISN'T EVERY DAY THEY SEE A GOD REBORN!
A LITTLE DISCIPLINE WILL QUICKLY ESTABLISH MY AUTHORITY!
WAIT! STOP!
SUCH BRUTAL RETALIATION IS HARDLY NECESSARY!
I'LL DECIDE WHAT IS NECESSARY... AND WHAT ISN'T!
THIS IS MY WORLD!
MINE TO RULE OR RUIN AS I DESIRE!

I SPENT CENTURIES IN MY PERSONAL TRANSMUTING CHAMBER, DREAMING OF THIS MOMENT --
-- AND NEITHER COMPASSION NOR MERCY FACTORED PARTICULARLY HIGH ON MY CHECKLIST!
YOU LIED TO ME!
ONLY A LITTLE!
MY ORIGINAL HOMEWORLD WAS THREATENED BY A NOVA.
I JUST NEGLECTED TO MENTION THAT IT WAS CAUSED BY MY OWN EFFORTS TO GAIN THE POWER ALMIGHTY!

OOOKAY, SO MAYBE I DID GO A LITTLE OVERBOARD --
-- SACRIFICING MY WORLD ALONG WITH A FEW MILLION INHABITANTS WHO DIDN'T MAKE THE FINAL EVACUATION CUT --
-- BUT WE MUSTN'T LIVE IN THE PAST!
A BRIGHT FUTURE AWAITS US ALL!
I'M GOING TO REBUILD THIS NEW WORLD INTO A VERITABLE PARADISE!
MY PEOPLE WILL NEVER WANT FOR ANYTHING!
I SHALL SATISFY THEIR EVERY NEED AND DESIRE...
AT LEAST THE ONES I DEEM ACCEPTABLE!
ENOUGH! THIS IS MADNESS!


YOU HAVE NO RIGHT, NO JUSTIFICATION FOR YOUR ACTIONS!
OF COURSE I DO, SILLY...
I KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR MY PEOPLE.
AND, BESIDES, I WIELD THE POWER ALMIGHTY!
DO NOT FORCE ME TO OPPOSE YOU!
YOU THINK YOU HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS?
HA!
BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION, YOU BECAME THE HERALD OF THE PLANET-DEVOURING GALACTUS TO SAVE YOUR OWN HOME!
YOU, PERSONALLY, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY MORE DEATHS, AND FAR GREATER DESTRUCTION THAN I!
AT LEAST I'VE RETURNED TO MY PEOPLE WITH THE FULL INTENTION OF IMPROVING THEIR DAILY LIVES --
-- AND MAKING THEIR NEW HOME INTO UTOPIA!
BUT YOUR WORLD... YOUR BELOVED ZENN-LA... WAS DESTROYED DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS!
YOUR PEOPLE ERASED FROM EXISTENCE IN SPITE OF YOUR SO-CALLED NOBLE SACRIFICE!
STOP.

DO NOT PREACH TO ME, SURFER!
I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE, MY EVERY CONSCIOUS THOUGHT TO THE BETTERMENT OF MY PEOPLE.
CAN YOU SAY THE SAME?
WHILE I HAVE SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED TO IMPROVE MYSELF -- FOR THEIR SAKE -- YOU HAVE SQUANDERED YOUR POWER COSMIC!
YOU COULD HAVE ENHANCED THE LIVES OF ALL WHO LIVE ON THE WORLD CALLED EARTH!
INSTEAD, YOU WHINE AND EQUIVOCATE OVER A SIMPLE MORTAL WOMAN!
MY METHODS MAY SEEM A TAD HARSH --
-- BUT MY GOALS ARE NOBLE AND PURE!
YOU, HOWEVER, LIVE ONLY FOR YOURSELF!

ALL RIGHT, I AM SURE SOME WOULD SAY THAT THE DEATHS OF A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS --
-- WHOM YOU'VE NEVER MET, AND PROBABLY WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT IF YOU DID --
-- IS TOO GREAT A PRICE!
I, OF COURSE, DISAGREE!
MY PEOPLE CAN ONLY ADVANCE IF THEY WORSHIP ME BLINDLY AND WITHOUT RESERVATION!
I MUST EARN THEIR RESPECT, AND PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF THEIR CEASELESS DEVOTION!
YOU ARE ONLY PROVING YOURSELF TO BE AS RUTHLESS AS YOU ARE MISGUIDED!
THE LOSS OF ANY INNOCENT LIFE DIMINISHES US ALL!
WHILE YOU MOUTH MUSTY PLATITUDES, YOU MISUSE YOUR POWER AND ABUSE YOUR PEOPLE!
POWER SUCH AS YOU NOW POSSESS IS A RARE GIFT!
HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO CHERISH IT, AND USE IT PROPERLY...

...IT CAN ALWAYS BE STRIPPED AWAY!
HOW DARE YOU EVEN SUGGEST SUCH A MONSTROUS OBSCENITY?
I AM THE SALVATION OF MY PEOPLE! I AM THE GOD OF THEIR PRAYERS! THE DELIVERER OF THEIR DREAMS!
THEY NEED ME!
GO! LEAVE ME NOW! RETURN TO THE WORLD YOU HAVE SO COME TO LOVE --
-- AND THE MORTAL WOMAN YOU THINK YOU DO!
I WILL...
...WHEN MY TASK IS DONE!
NO! NO! YOU MUSTN'T TAKE WHAT IS MINE!
I HAVE ALREADY RISKED AND LOST TOO MUCH!
YOU MAY FOOLISHLY PLACE YOUR DESTINY AT THE WHIM OF ANOTHER --
-- BUT SYMPIRA MUST ALWAYS CONTROL HER OWN FATE!
SUCH CONTROL IS RARELY POSSIBLE --
-- AND NEVER SATISFYING!

NO! YOU HAVE NO RIGHT -- NO JUSTIFICATION -- TO INTERFERE WITH THE FUTURE HAPPINESS OF MY PEOPLE!
IT JUST ISN'T FAIR!
PERHAPS NOT... BUT REAL LIFE RARELY IS!
WAIT! YOU MUSTN'T ABANDON ME!
I DEMAND SANCTUARY!
P-PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ME TO THIS UNWASHED RABBLE... WHICH HATES AND FEARS ME!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS, SYMPIRA.
I HAVE PLACED YOUR DESTINY IN THE HANDS OF YOUR PEOPLE.
I PRAY THEY ARE WORTHY OF MY TRUST!
I MUST NOW RETURN TO EARTH --
-- WHERE MY OWN FUTURE AWAITS!
THE END

MARVEL COMICS
SILVER SURFER
MAY
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DeMATTEIS
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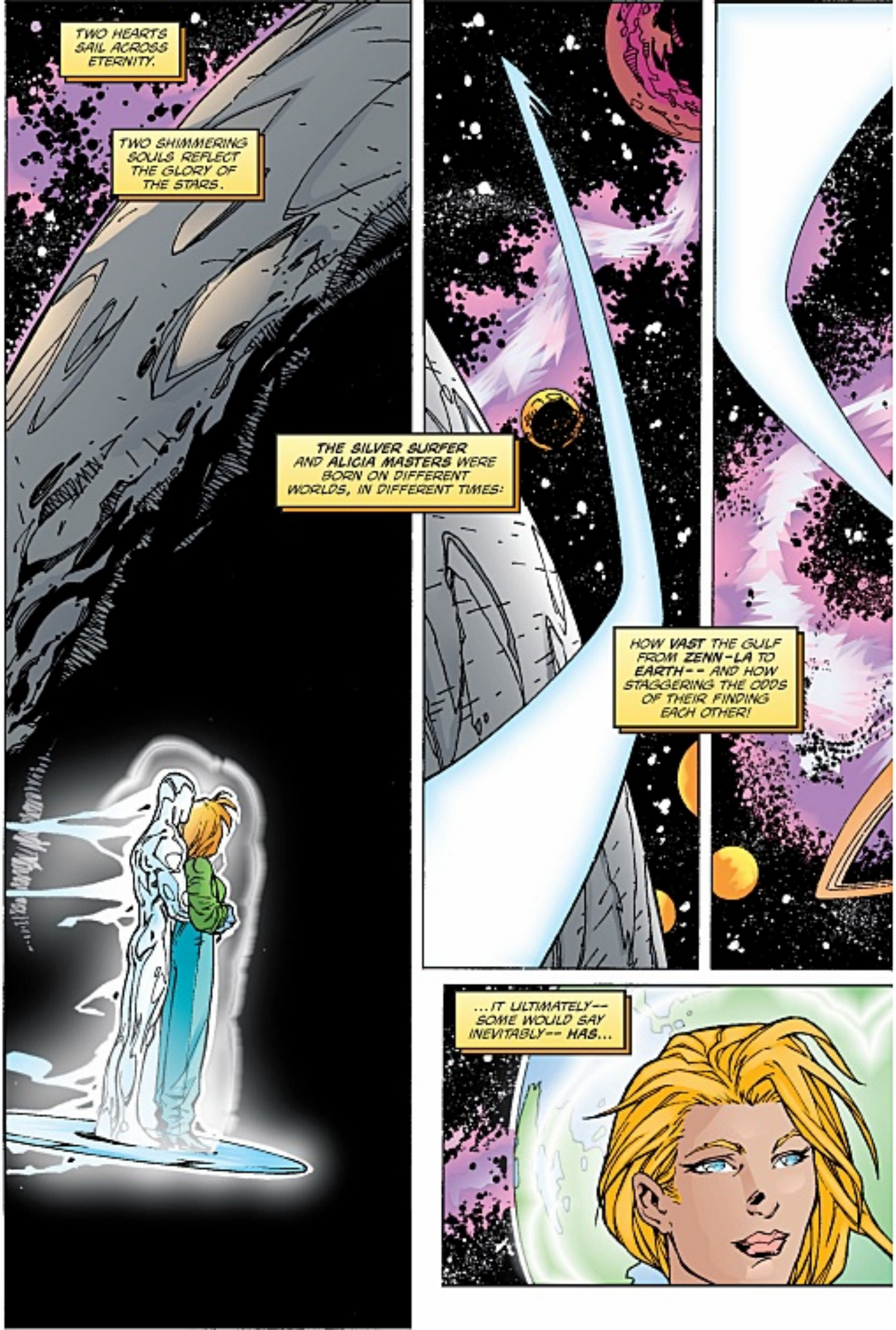
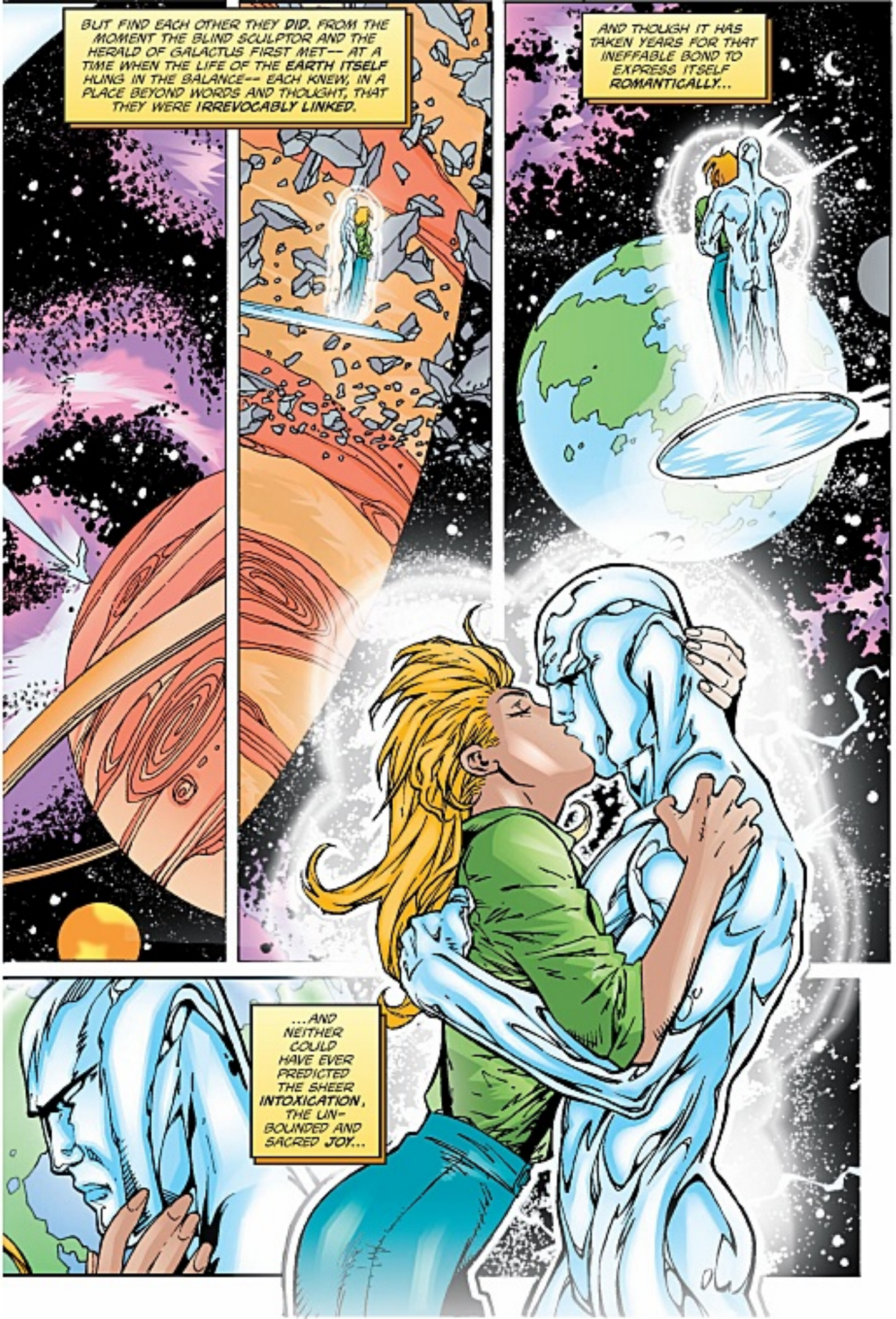
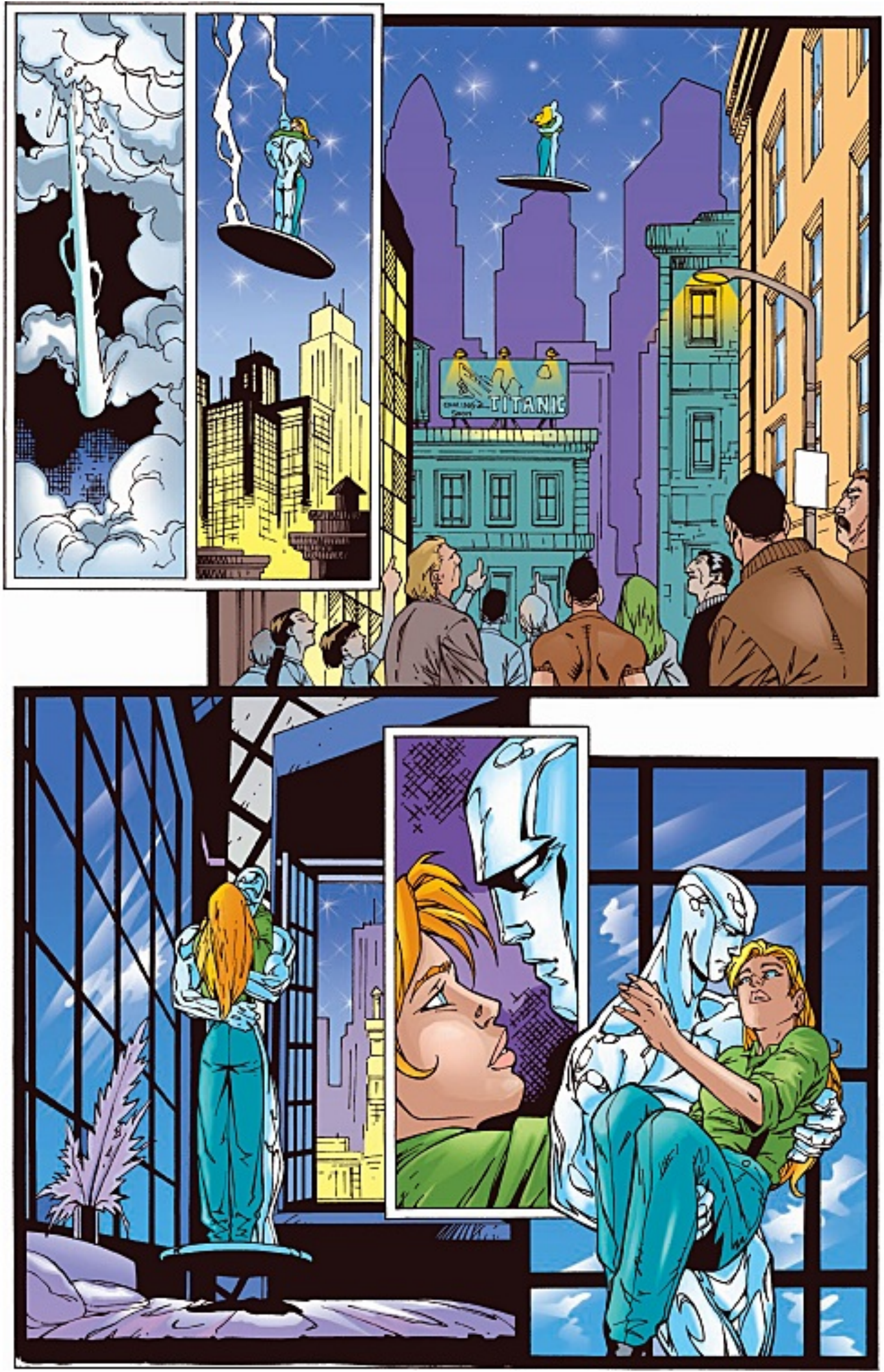
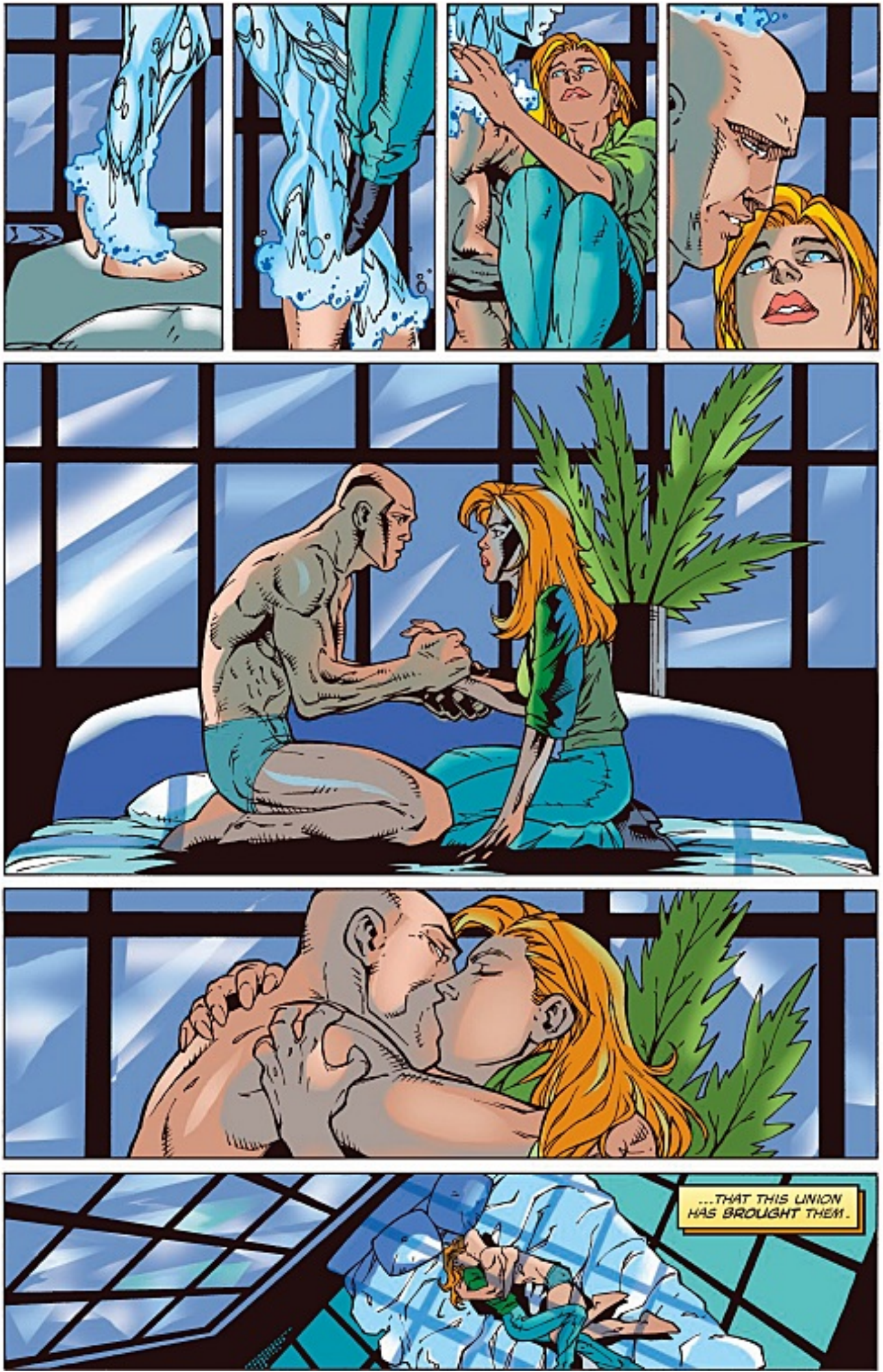
IN ALL THE UNIVERSES, THERE IS NO EMOTION THAT HAS BEEN MORE ANALYZED AND CODIFIED THAN LOVE. AND YET, FOR ALL THE PONTIFICATION AND POETICS, ALL THE RHAPSODIES AND RHYMES...
...IN THE END, LOVE IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE EXPLAINED OR EXPOUNDED UPON...
...IT CAN ONLY BE FELT.
Stan Lee presents
SUN RISE and SHADOW FALL...
Prologue
Starring the SILVER SURFER
JOHN MARC DeMATTEIS - WRITER
ROGER CRUZ AND
JOE BENNETT - PENCILERS
MANNY CLARK AND
JOE BENNETT & CO. - INKERS
JON J. MUTH - PG 31 ARTIST
JOHN COSTANZA - LETTERER
TOM SMITH - COLORIST
JAYE GARDNER - EDITOR
BOB HARRAS - CHIEF


TWO HEARTS SAIL ACROSS ETERNITY.
TWO SHIMMERING SOULS REFLECT THE GLORY OF THE STARS.
THE SILVER SURFER AND ALICIA MASTERS WERE BORN ON DIFFERENT WORLDS, IN DIFFERENT TIMES:
HOW VAST THE GULF FROM ZENN-LA TO EARTH-- AND HOW STAGGERING THE ODDS OF THEIR FINDING EACH OTHER!
...IT ULTIMATELY-- SOME WOULD SAY INEVITABLY-- HAS...

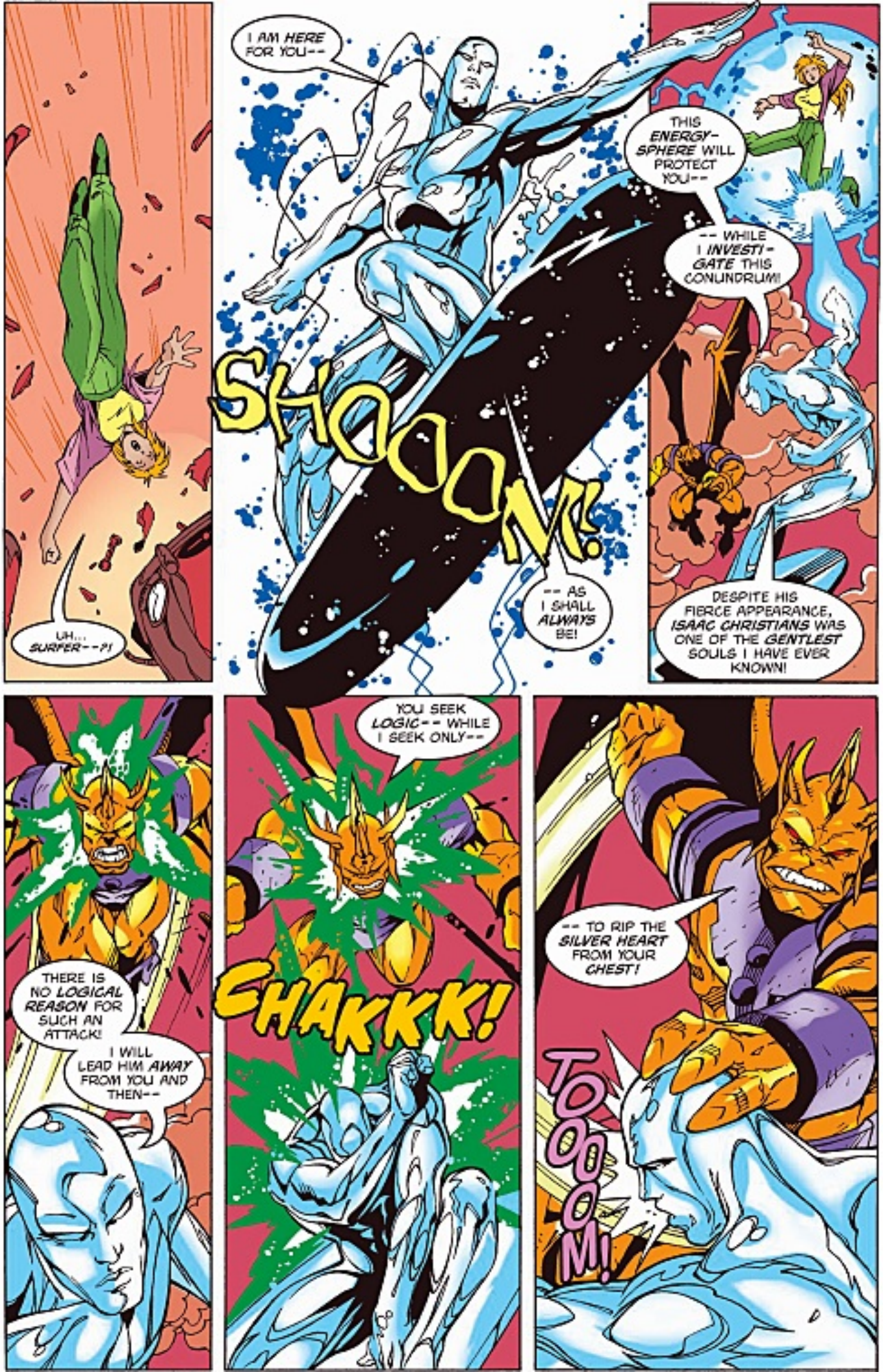

BUT FIND EACH OTHER THEY DID. FROM THE MOMENT THE BLIND SCULPTOR AND THE HERALD OF GALACTUS FIRST MET-- AT A TIME WHEN THE LIFE OF THE EARTH ITSELF HUNG IN THE BALANCE-- EACH KNEW, IN A PLACE BEYOND WORDS AND THOUGHT, THAT THEY WERE IRREVOCABLY LINKED.
AND THOUGH IT HAS TAKEN YEARS FOR THAT INEFFABLE BOND TO EXPRESS ITSELF ROMANTICALLY...
...AND NEITHER COULD HAVE EVER PREDICTED THE SHEER INTOXICATION, THE UN-BOUNDED AND SACRED JOY...

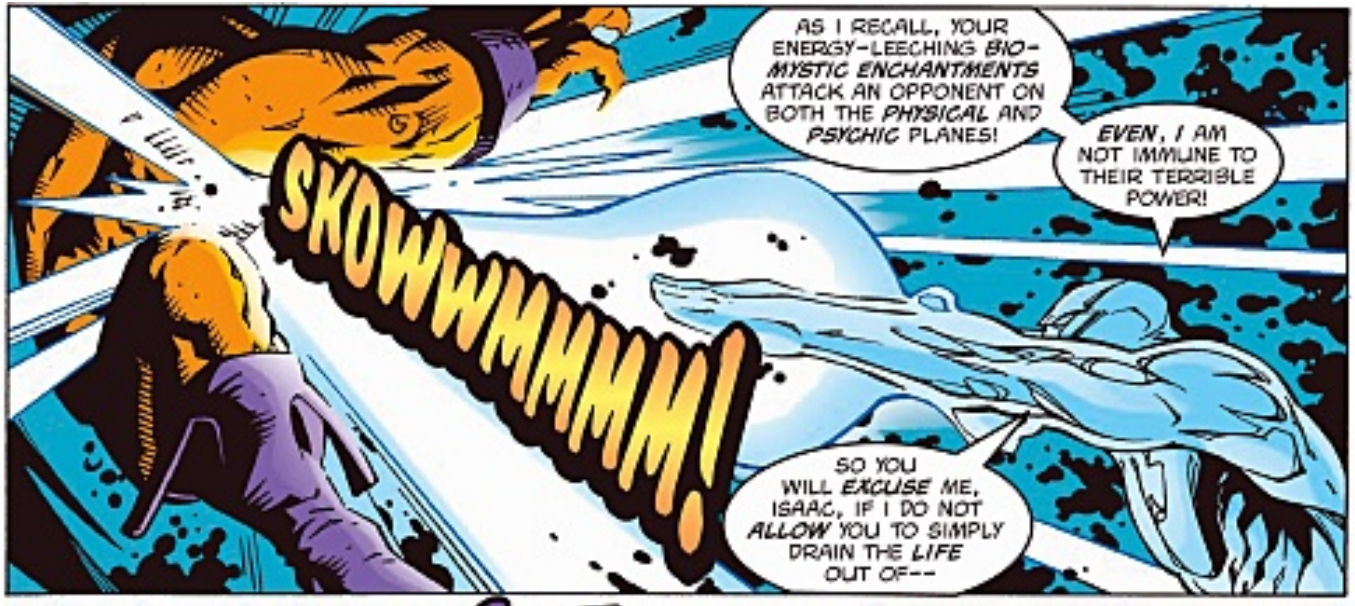

TITANIC

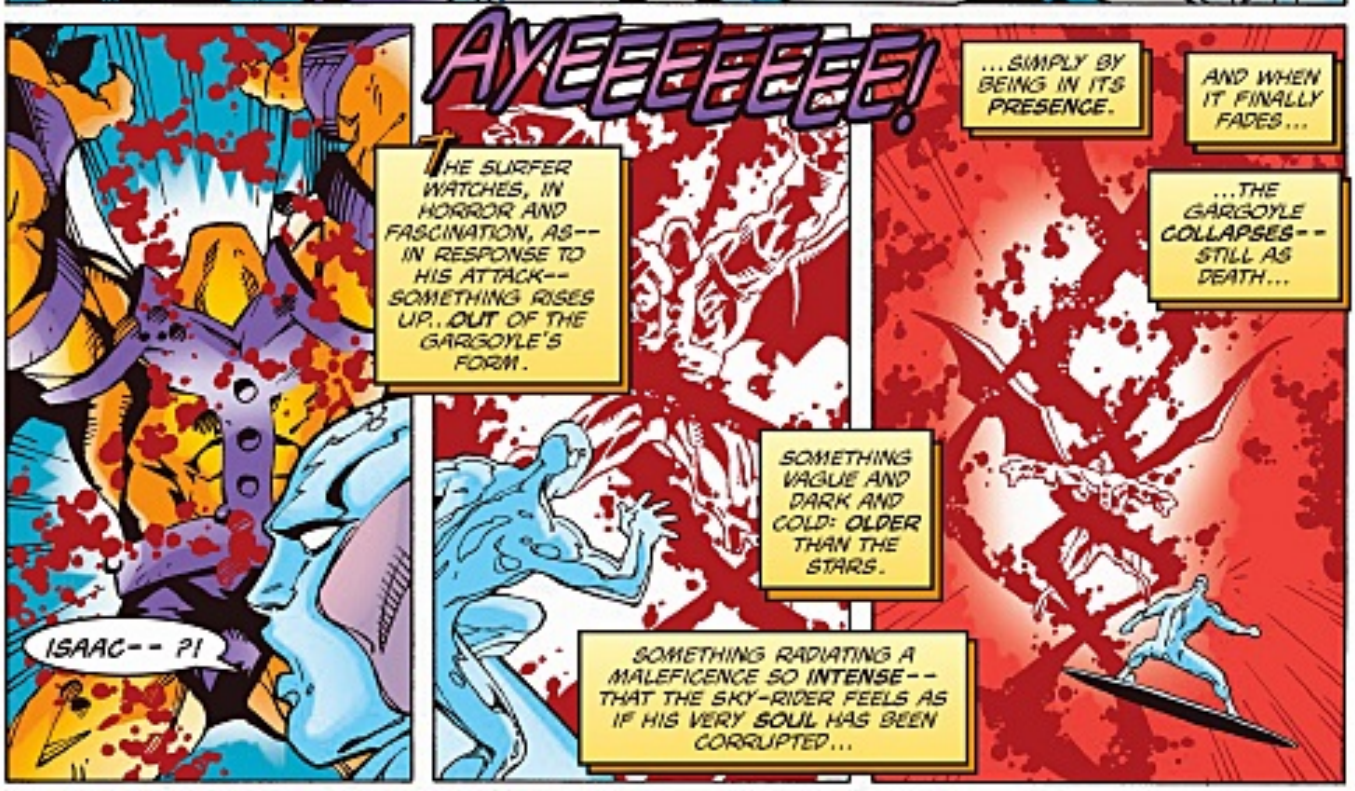

...THAT THIS UNION HAS BROUGHT THEM.

THE SILVER SURFER HAS NOT KNOWN SUCH EXHALTATION SINCE THE DAYS WHEN HE AND HIS BELOVED SHALLA-BAL WERE TOGETHER... IN THE TIME BEFORE GALACTUS CAME TO ZENN-LA-- AND THE SHAPE OF HIS UNIVERSE CHANGED FOREVER.
BUT ZENN-LA IS GONE-- DEVOURED BY THE OTHER-- AS IS SHALLA-BAL. EARTH IS THE SKY-RIDER'S HOME NOW-- AND HE WANTS TO EMBRACE THIS WORLD AS HE NEVER HAS BEFORE...
...SO-- WHERE ARE WE GOING?
NOWHERE. EVERYWHERE.
...TO EMBRACE HUMANITY-- BY TRAVELING AMONG THEM, BECOMING ONE OF THEM.
LET OUR HEARTS LEAD US. LET THE ROAD ITSELF BE OUR WAY AND OUR GOAL.
SO TELL ME, SINCE YOU'RE ABLE TO ALTER YOUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TO MIMIC A HUMAN FORM--
-- WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE YOURSELF A NICE BUSHY HEAD OF HAIR?
ON ZENN-LA, WE DID NOT HAVE MYTHS-- AS YOUR PEOPLE DO-- CONNECTING A MAN'S PLUMAGE WITH HIS POWER.
IN FACT, MALE BODY HAIR WAS VIEWED AS A THROWBACK TO A MORE PRIMITIVE-- AND UNENLIGHTENED-- AGE.
HEY, IT'S OKAY WITH ME. I LOVE RUNNING MY HANDS OVER THAT SMOOTH DOME OF--
SPAK!
KOOPF!
RRRRAP RRRRAP RRRRK!
-- YOURS?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
FOOPF!
THE AUTOMOBILE IS EXPERIENCING... MINOR DIFFI-CULTIES.
MINOR?
TO ONE SKILLED IN REPAIRING THE SPACE-TIME ENGINES OF GALACTUS'S WORLD-SHIP-- MAINTAINING THIS PRIMITIVE VEHICLE IS CHILD'S PLAY.
UH... DID YOU REMEMBER TO CHECK THE OIL IN IT BEFORE WE LEFT?
NO--
-- WAS THAT IMPORTANT?
ARGH.
NO NEED TO WORRY. I HAVE A VERY SIMPLE SOLUTION.

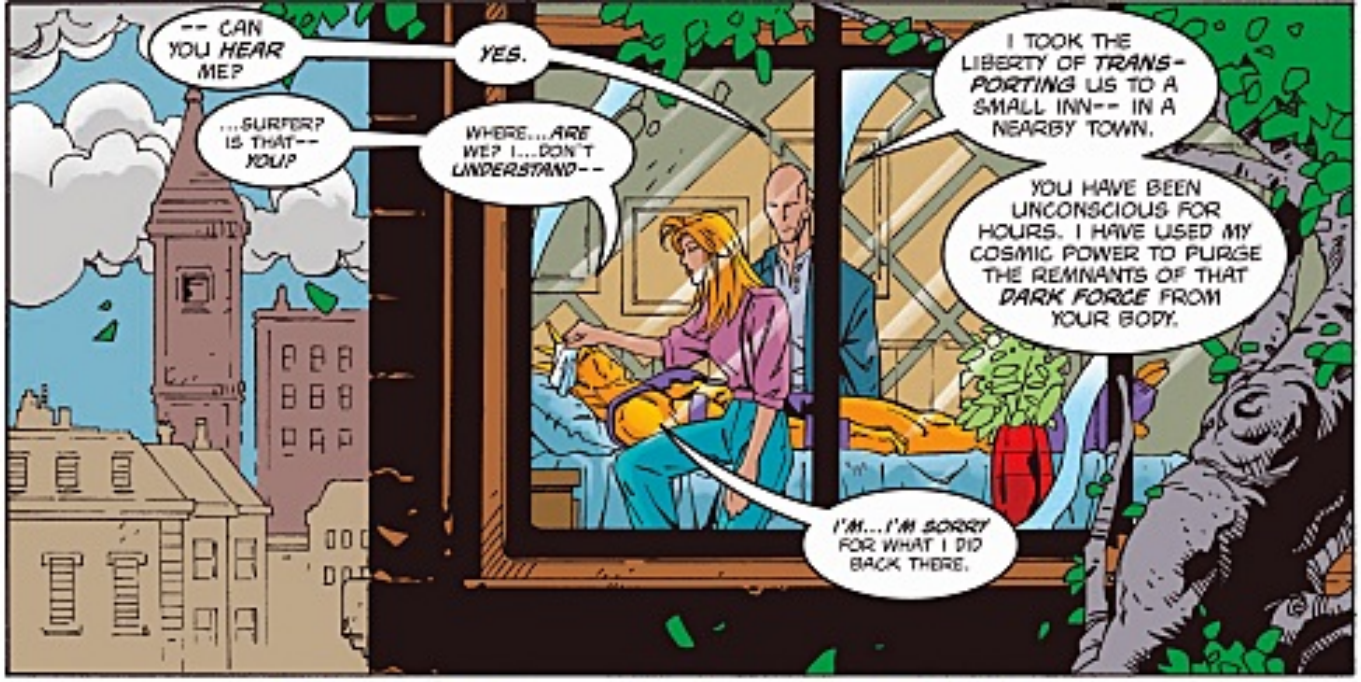
...USING YOUR POWER COSMIC TO MAKE THE CAR FLY?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TAKE THIS TRIP LIKE AN AVERAGE HUMAN.
WITHIN REASON, ALICIA. WITHIN REASON.
Y'KNOW, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, BEFORE THE ACCIDENT THAT BLINDED ME-- MY DAD AND I USED TO GO TO THE MOVIES A LOT--
-- AND ONE OF MY FAVORITES WAS THE ORIGINAL "ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR." YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH FRED MACMURRAY?
OH, RIGHT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT MADE IT TO ZENN-LA.
ANYWAY, I USED TO IMAGINE ZOOMING AROUND IN A FLYING CAR LIKE HE DID. AND NOW, HERE I AM ACTUALLY DOING IT! WHO SAYS DREAMS DON'T COME--
SWOOOSH!
NOW WHAT?!
SOMETHING-- IN THE SKY. IF I HAD NOT ACCELERATED AND VEERED AWAY-- WE WOULD HAVE COLLIDED WITH--
WITH WHAT?
WITH--
THE GARGOYLE?!
WHO?
AN ALLY FROM MY DAYS WITH THE LOOSE CONFEDERACY OF HEROES CALLED THE DEFENDERS!
BUT, JUDGING BY THE ENERGY-WAVES RIPPLING AROUND HIM, I SUSPECT THAT HE IS AN ALLY--
-- NO LONGER!
SHRAKKKK!
THE CAR! HE RIPPED IT IN TWO!


UH... SURFER--?!
I AM HERE FOR YOU--
SHOOOM!
-- AS I SHALL ALWAYS BE!
THIS ENERGY-SPHERE WILL PROTECT YOU--
-- WHILE I INVESTI-GATE THIS CONUNDRUM!
DESPITE HIS FIERCE APPEARANCE, ISAAC CHRISTIANS WAS ONE OF THE GENTLEST SOULS I HAVE EVER KNOWN!
THERE IS NO LOGICAL REASON FOR SUCH AN ATTACK!
I WILL LEAD HIM AWAY FROM YOU AND THEN--
YOU SEEK LOGIC-- WHILE I SEEK ONLY--
CHAKKK!
-- TO RIP THE SILVER HEART FROM YOUR CHEST!
TOOOM!


AS I RECALL, YOUR ENERGY-LEECHING BIO-MYSTIC ENCHANTMENTS ATTACK AN OPPONENT ON BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHIC PLANES!
EVEN, I AM NOT IMMUNE TO THEIR TERRIBLE POWER!
SKOWWMMMM!
SO YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, ISAAC, IF I DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO SIMPLY DRAIN THE LIFE OUT OF--


AYEEEEEEE!
ISAAC-- ?!
THE SURFER WATCHES, IN HORROR AND FASCINATION, AS-- IN RESPONSE TO HIS ATTACK-- SOMETHING RISES UP..OUT OF THE GARGOYLE'S FORM.
SOMETHING VAGUE AND DARK AND COLD: OLDER THAN THE STARS.
SOMETHING RADIATING A MALEFICENCE SO INTENSE-- THAT THE SKY-RIDER FEELS AS IF HIS VERY SOUL HAS BEEN CORRUPTED...
...SIMPLY BY BEING IN ITS PRESENCE.
AND WHEN IT FINALLY FADES...
...THE GARGOYLE COLLAPSES-- STILL AS DEATH...

...IN THE SURFER'S COMFORTING EMBRACE.
ISAAC-- ?
...ISAAC--


-- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YES.
...SURFER? IS THAT-- YOU?
WHERE...ARE WE? I...DON'T UNDERSTAND--
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TRANSPORTING US TO A SMALL INN-- IN A NEARBY TOWN.
YOU HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR HOURS. I HAVE USED MY COSMIC POWER TO PURGE THE REMNANTS OF THAT DARK FORCE FROM YOUR BODY.
I'M...I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID BACK THERE.

NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY. IT BECAME QUICKLY EVIDENT THAT YOU WERE UNDER AN OUTSIDE INFLUENCE.
IT'S BEEN AH...QUITE A FEW DAYS.
MR. CHRISTIANS... ISAAC...CAN YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

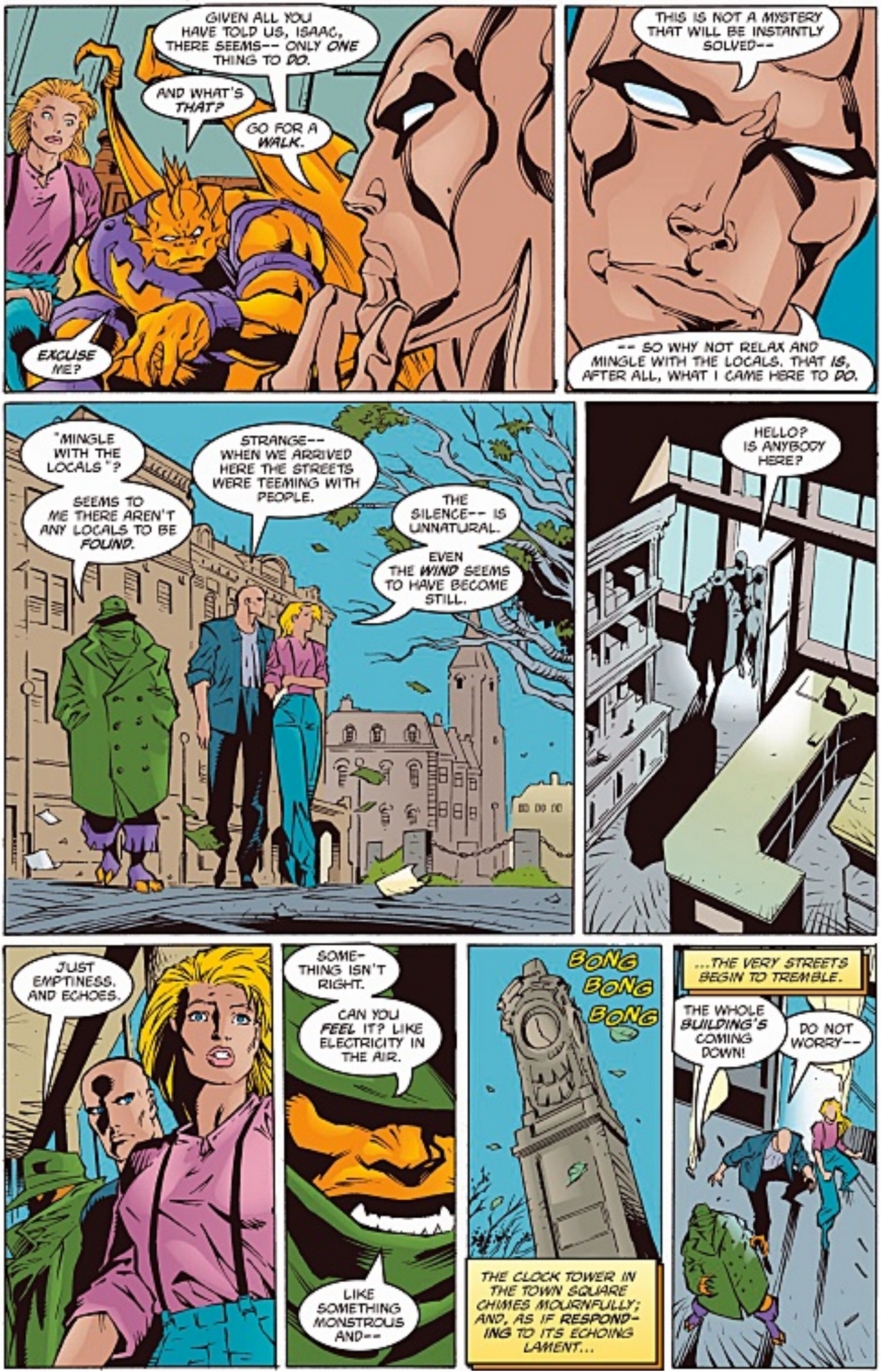
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOW THAT'S A STORY EVEN I FIND HARD TO BELIEVE.
THE DETAILS ARE TOO FANTASTIC FOR ME TO RECOUNT*--

-- SO LET'S JUST SAY THAT I WAS APPROACHED BY A WOMAN NAMED SEETAH, WHO CLAIMS--
-- AND I BELIEVE HER--

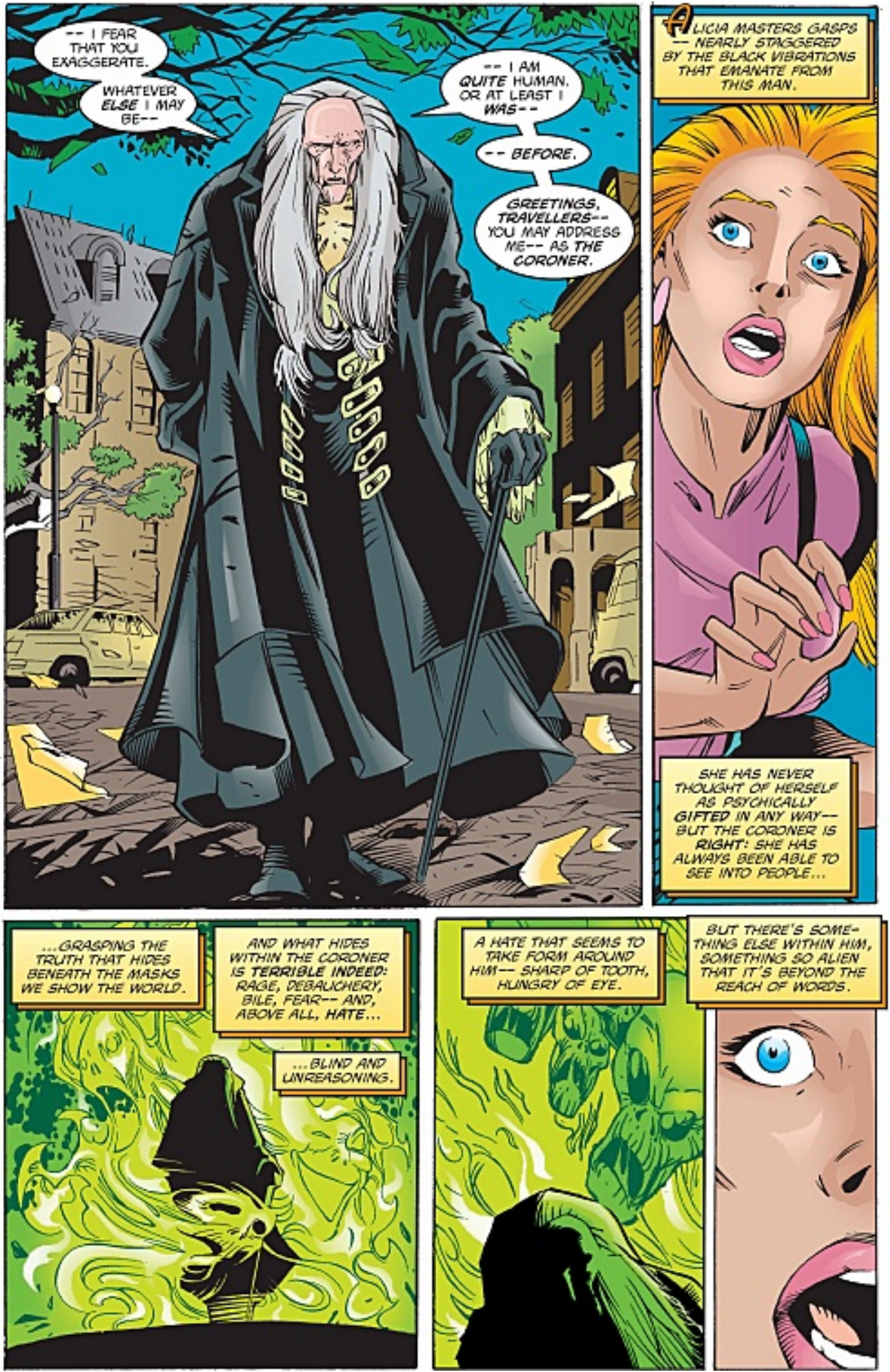
"-- TO REPRESENT A COALITION OF ANCIENT BEINGS...GODS, MAYBE... INTENT ON STOPPING THE HUMAN RACE FROM DESTROYING ITSELF--
"-- OR BEING DESTROYED BY AN AGES-OLD EVIL-- THAT HAS NO NAME.

"THE ONLY INSTRUCTIONS I GOT WERE TO SEEK OUT THE HEART OF SILVER...THE DAWN OF ETERNITY. THE SILVER PART I TOOK TO MEAN YOU, SURFER--

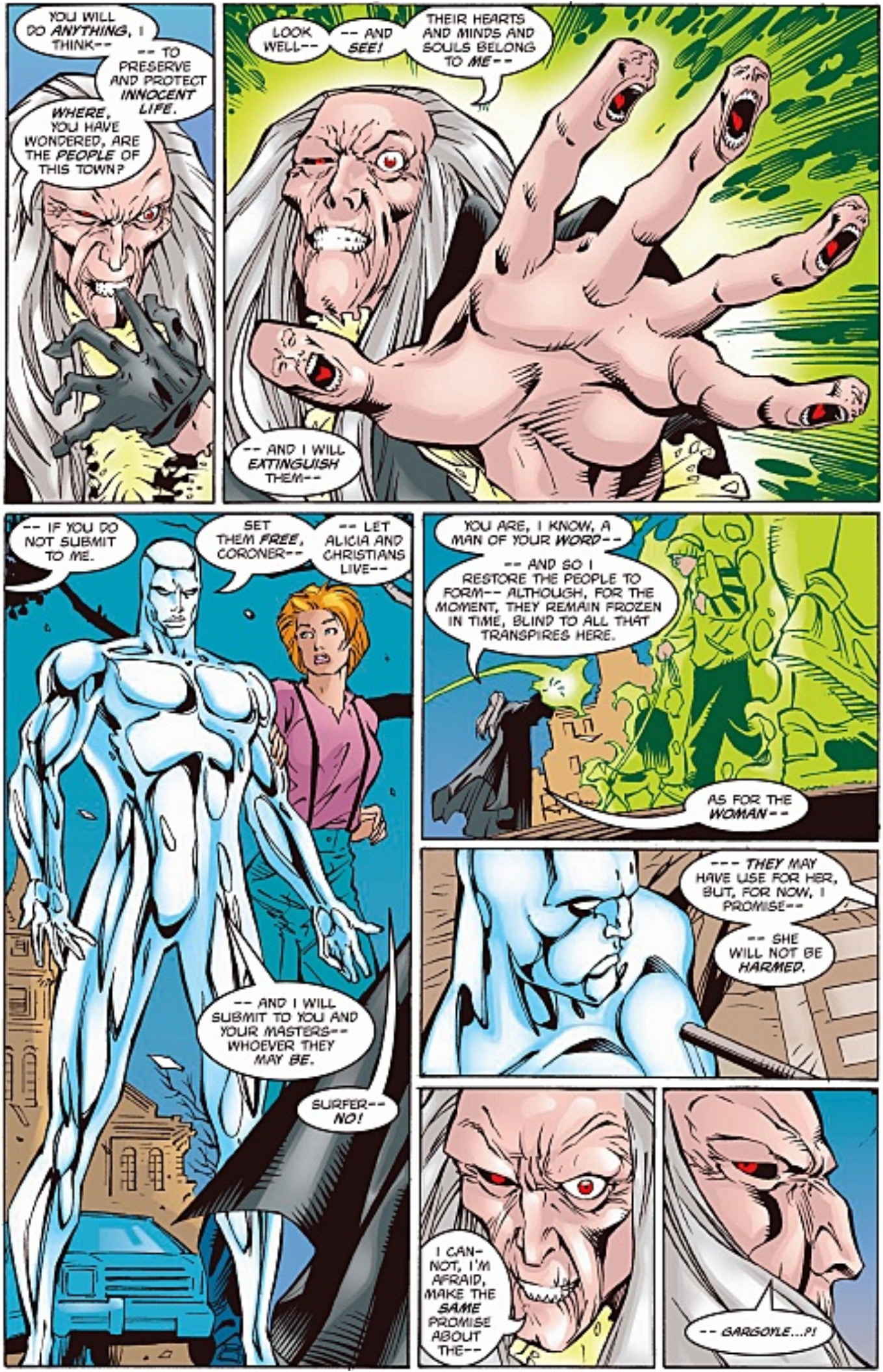
"-- BUT, BEFORE I COULD FIND YOU, I WAS WAYLAID BY...I DON'T KNOW. SOMETHING. WHATEVER IT WAS YOU EXORCISED, I GUESS."
*BUT YOU CAN GET THE SKINNY IF YOU PICK UP STRANGE TALES: DARK CORNERS-- ON SALE NOW!
--JAYE


GIVEN ALL YOU HAVE TOLD US, ISAAC, THERE SEEMS-- ONLY ONE THING TO DO.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
GO FOR A WALK.
EXCUSE ME?
THIS IS NOT A MYSTERY THAT WILL BE INSTANTLY SOLVED--
-- SO WHY NOT RELAX AND MINGLE WITH THE LOCALS. THAT IS, AFTER ALL, WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.
"MINGLE WITH THE LOCALS"?
SEEMS TO ME THERE AREN'T ANY LOCALS TO BE FOUND.
STRANGE-- WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE THE STREETS WERE TEEMING WITH PEOPLE.
THE SILENCE-- IS UNNATURAL.
EVEN THE WIND SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME STILL.
HELLO? IS ANYBODY HERE?
JUST EMPTINESS. AND ECHOES.
SOME-THING ISN'T RIGHT.
CAN YOU FEEL IT? LIKE ELECTRICITY IN THE AIR.
LIKE SOMETHING MONSTROUS AND--
BONG BONG BONG
THE CLOCK TOWER IN THE TOWN SQUARE CHIMES MOURNFULLY; AND, AS IF RESPOND-ING TO ITS ECHOING LAMENT...
...THE VERY STREETS BEGIN TO TREMBLE.
THE WHOLE BUILDING'S COMING DOWN!
DO NOT WORRY--

THRAKASH!
--I WILL PROTECT US!
THERE'S SOMETHING NEARBY-- DARK... TWISTED--
-- UTTERLY INHUMAN!
I CAN FEEL IT...ALMOST LIKE RADIATION-- POURING INTO ME!
YOU ARE MOST SENSITIVE, WOMAN.
YOUR LACK OF OUTER VISION HAS RESULTED IN AN ACUTE INNER VISION.
BUT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT I AM GENUINELY COMPLIMENTED BY YOUR DESCRIPTION OF ME--

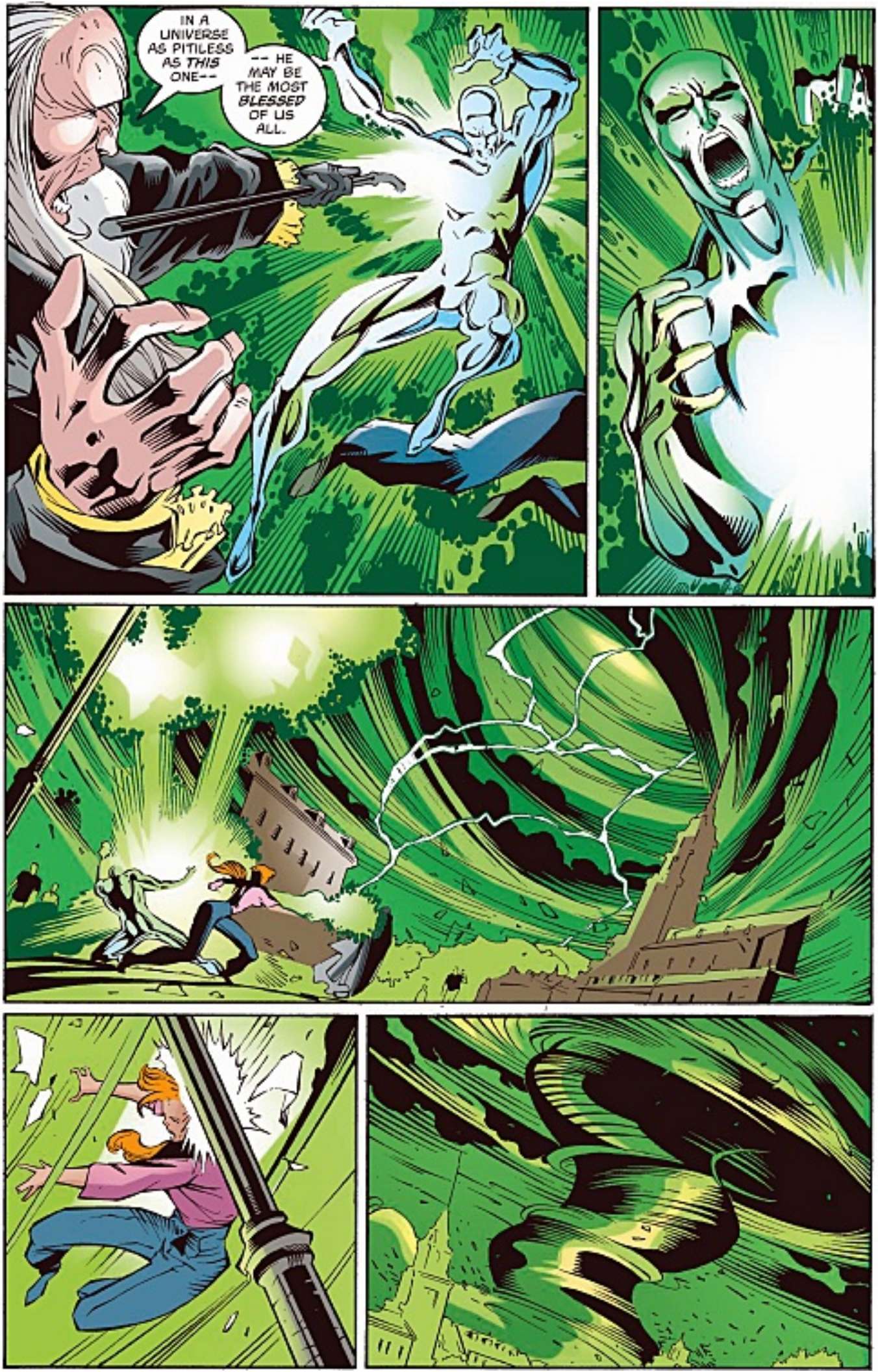

-- I FEAR THAT YOU EXAGGERATE.
WHATEVER ELSE I MAY BE--
-- I AM QUITE HUMAN, OR AT LEAST I WAS--
-- BEFORE.
GREETINGS, TRAVELLERS-- YOU MAY ADDRESS ME-- AS THE CORONER.
ALICIA MASTERS GASPS -- NEARLY STAGGERED BY THE BLACK VIBRATIONS THAT EMANATE FROM THIS MAN.
SHE HAS NEVER THOUGHT OF HERSELF AS PSYCHICALLY GIFTED IN ANY WAY-- BUT THE CORONER IS RIGHT: SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SEE INTO PEOPLE...
...GRASPING THE TRUTH THAT HIDES BENEATH THE MASKS WE SHOW THE WORLD.
AND WHAT HIDES WITHIN THE CORONER IS TERRIBLE INDEED: RAGE, DEBAUCHERY, BILE, FEAR-- AND, ABOVE ALL, HATE...
...BLIND AND UNREASONING.
A HATE THAT SEEMS TO TAKE FORM AROUND HIM-- SHARP OF TOOTH, HUNGRY OF EYE.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WITHIN HIM, SOMETHING SO ALIEN THAT IT'S BEYOND THE REACH OF WORDS.

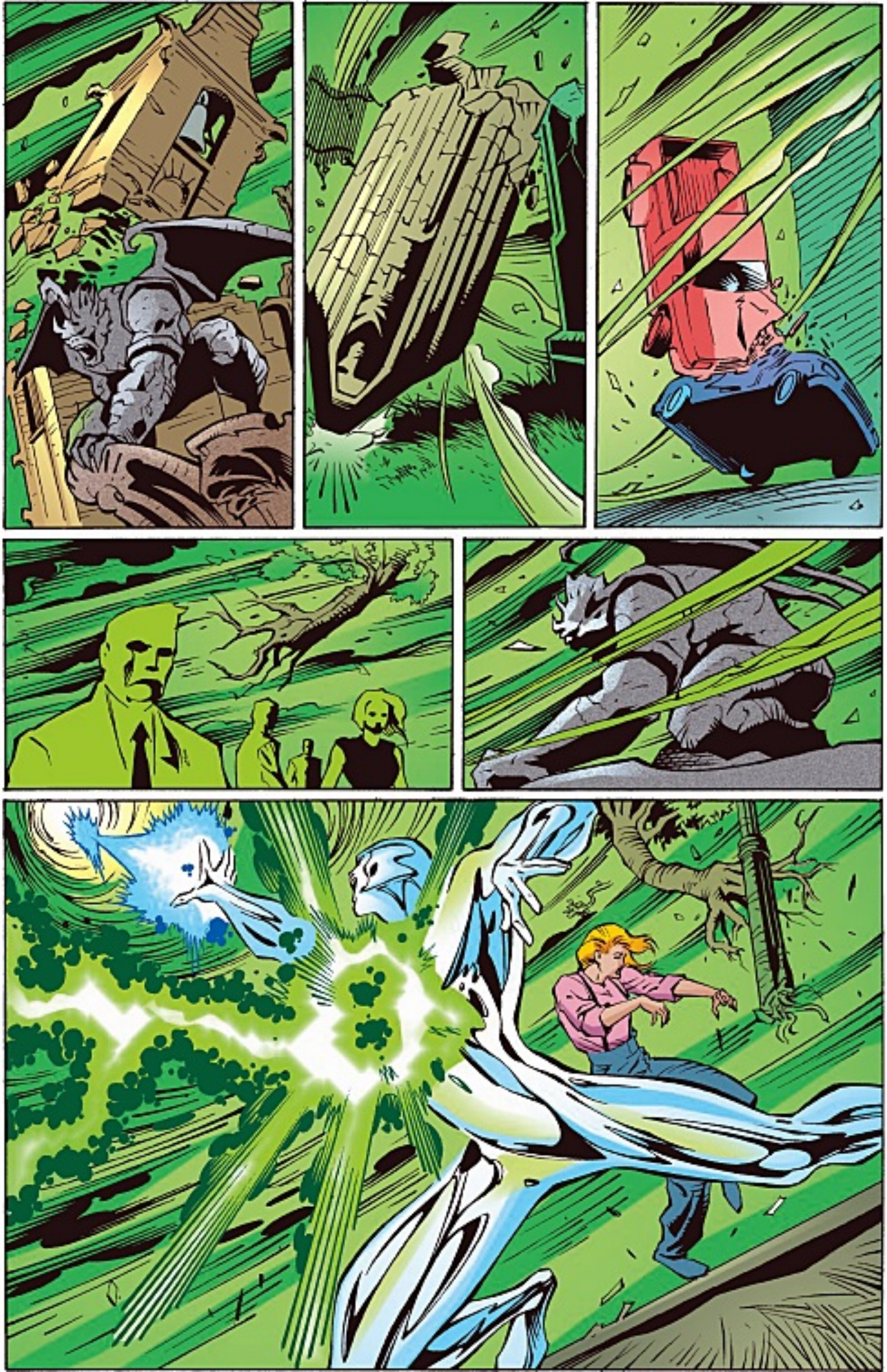
YOU--
-- I REMEMBER NOW!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ATTACKED ME, WHO--
OF COURSE.
YOUR PATH AND THE SURFER'S WERE ABOUT TO CROSS--
-- AND SO I DECIDED TO USE YOU AGAINST HIM--
-- IN HOPES OF AVOIDING A DIRECT CONFRONTATION.
BUT THE PURITY OF THE SURFER'S LIGHT-- DROVE OUT THE DARKNESS I IMPLANTED WITHIN YOU--
-- AND SO I'VE HAD TO STEP OUT OF THE SHADOWS-- AND WORK MORE... DIRECTLY.
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, AREN'T YOU? THE ENTITIES SEETAH WARNED ME ABOUT! THE ONES WHO--
"ENTITIES"? I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT.
LET US PUT ASIDE CLEVERNESS AND RIDDLES-- AND SPEAK DIRECTLY.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT WITH US, CORONER?
A DIRECT QUESTION--
-- DESERVING OF A DIRECT ANSWER.
BUT I'M AFRAID MY ALLIES WOULD BE VERY UPSET WITH ME IF I REVEALED THEIR PLANS.
ALLIES--?
I WAS BORN-- MORE YEARS AGO THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE-- WITH CERTAIN MENTAL ABILITIES--
-- THAT ALLOWED ME TO CALL OUT, ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE AND TIME--
-- AND DRAW THEM TO ME.
AND NOW, AFTER CENTURIES OF WAITING-- THEY HAVE COME! IN THEIR DARK, GLEAMING CHARIOTS THEY HAVE COME!
FOR YOU, SILVER SURFER--
-- AND FOR THIS EARTH YOU LOVE.
IF THERE IS A THREAT TO MY ADOPTED HOMEWORLD, DO YOU THINK I WILL STAND BY AND ALLOW IT TO--


YOU WILL DO ANYTHING, I THINK--
-- TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT INNOCENT LIFE.
WHERE, YOU HAVE WONDERED, ARE THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN?
LOOK WELL--
-- AND SEE!
THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS AND SOULS BELONG TO ME--
-- AND I WILL EXTINGUISH THEM--
-- IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT TO ME.
SET THEM FREE, CORONER--
-- LET ALICIA AND CHRISTIANS LIVE--
-- AND I WILL SUBMIT TO YOU AND YOUR MASTERS-- WHOEVER THEY MAY BE.
SURFER-- NO!
YOU ARE, I KNOW, A MAN OF YOUR WORD--
-- AND SO I RESTORE THE PEOPLE TO FORM-- ALTHOUGH, FOR THE MOMENT, THEY REMAIN FROZEN IN TIME, BLIND TO ALL THAT TRANSPIRES HERE.
AS FOR THE WOMAN--
--- THEY MAY HAVE USE FOR HER, BUT, FOR NOW, I PROMISE--
-- SHE WILL NOT BE HARMED.
I CAN-- NOT, I'M AFRAID, MAKE THE SAME PROMISE ABOUT THE--
-- GARGOYLE...?!

HE DESCENDS ON WINGS OF STONE...
...BREATHING BIO-MYSTIC FIRE...
...ENVELOPING THE CORONER IN RAGE AND PITY AND, SURPRISINGLY...
...HOPE.
FOR THE GARGOYLE IS ATTEMPTING TO USE HIS POWER TO LIFT THE STAIN OF MADNESS AND DISEASE FROM THE CORONER'S HEART...
...TO FREE HIM FROM WHATEVER EVIL HAS HELD HIM IN ITS THRALL.
AND, FOR A MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF ISAAC CHRISTIANS IS SUCCEEDING.
A BRAVE, AN ADMIRABLE ATTEMPT!
BUT MY SURRENDER TO SIN WAS TOO LONG AGO--

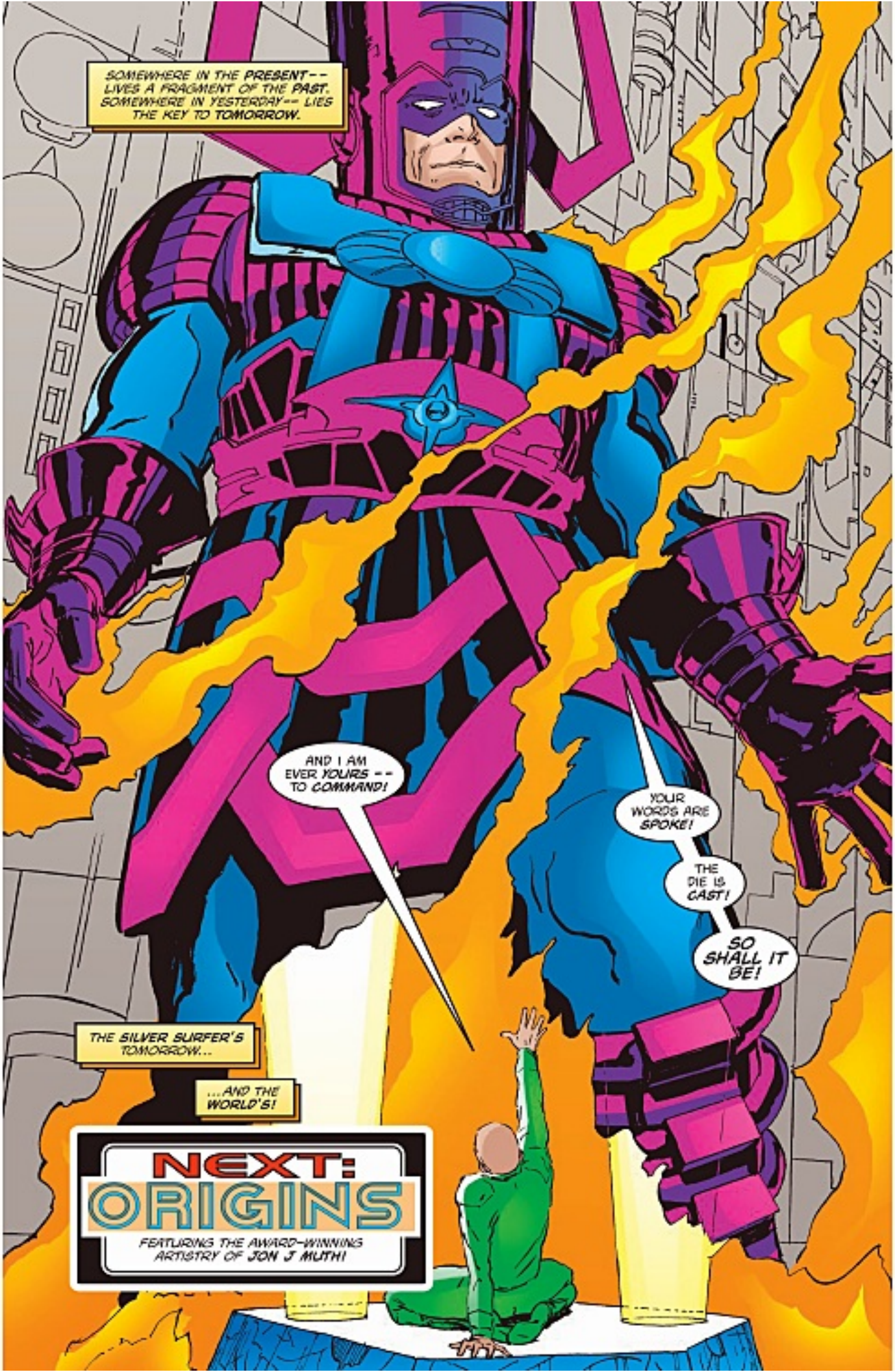
SHATHOOOM!
-- AND FAR TOO COMPLETE!
CHRISTIANS!
DO NOT GRIEVE FOR YOUR FRIEND. HE IS UNFEELING STONE, NOW--
--AND FOREVER.

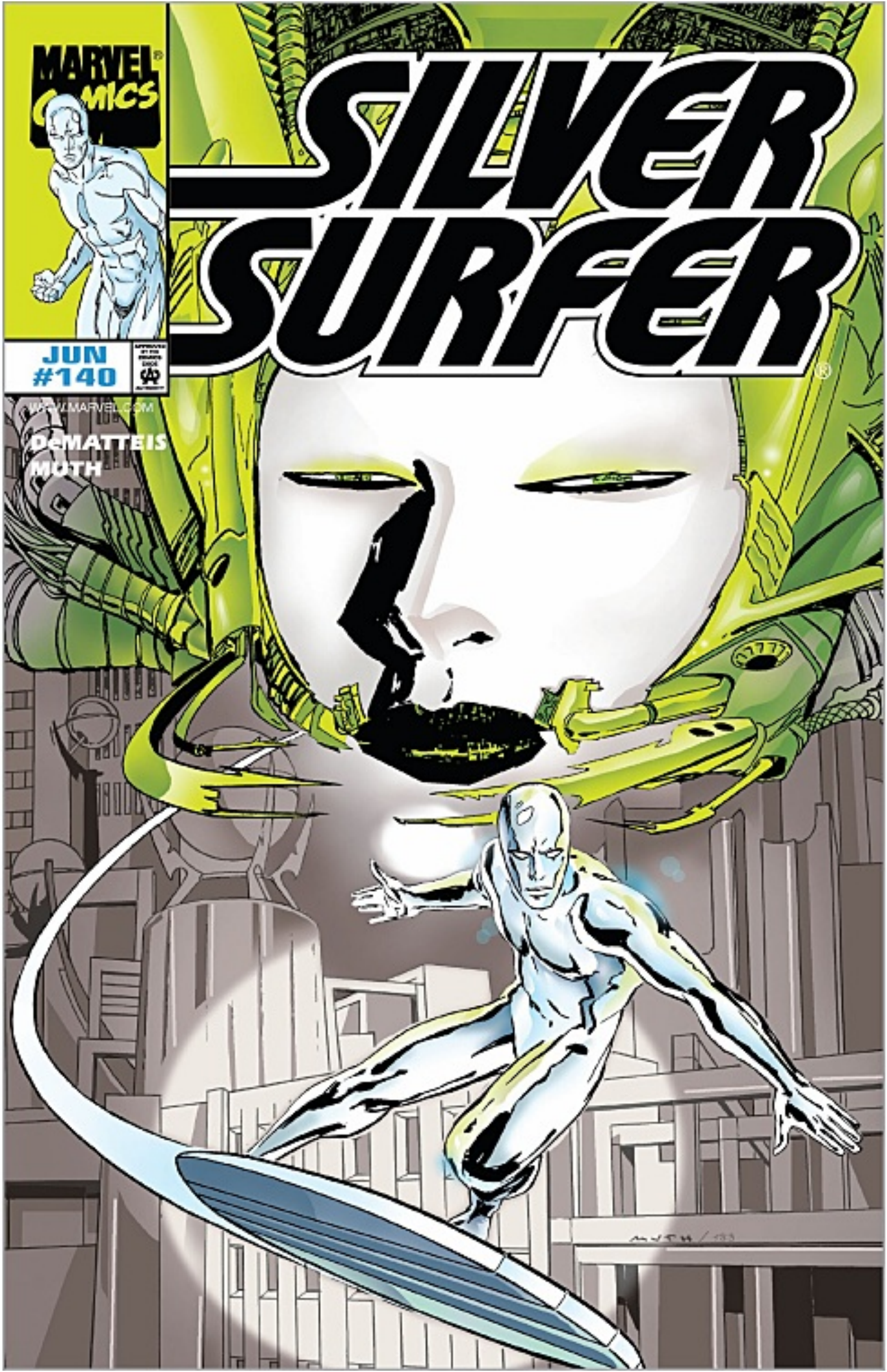

IN A UNIVERSE AS PITILESS AS *THIS* ONE--
-- HE *MAY* BE THE MOST *BLESSED* OF US ALL.



NIGHT FALLS.

THE PEOPLE OF WINDSOR, NEW HAMPSHIRE HAVE NO MEMORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED HERE TODAY.
THEY BELIEVE THAT A DEVASTATING TORNADO TORE THROUGH THEIR TOWN-- AND THEY'RE GRATE-FUL, AT LEAST, THAT NO LIVES WERE LOST.
WELL PAST MIDNIGHT A STAR DESCENDS FROM THE HEAVENS, ALIGHTING ATOP THE OLD CHURCH...
...AND, FROM WITHIN THE HEART OF THAT STAR, A WOMAN EMERGES...
...HER EYES REFLECTING SADNESS, COMPASSION, AND FATHOMLESS MYSTERY.
AWAKEN, ISAAC CHRISTIANS--
-- FROM YOUR STONE SLUMBER.
SEETAH?!
I'M SORRY, SEETAH. I FAILED YOU. I--
YOU HAVE DONE NO SUCH THING, ISAAC.
THE CORONER--
--IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
BUT YOU SENT ME OUT TO--
TO SEEK AN ANCIENT EVIL AND DESTROY IT? THE CORONER AND HIS ALLIES-- ARE NOT THAT EVIL. YOUR QUEST-- STILL LIES BEFORE YOU.
AND THE SURFER--?
HIS ROLE IN THIS HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED.
FOR NOW-- HE HAS ANOTHER WAR TO FIGHT.
AND IT WILL BE WAGED ON THE BATTLE-GROUND--
-- OF HIS OWN SOUL.
"MIGHTY GALACTUS-- DO BUT SPARE ZENN-LA--


SOMEWHERE IN THE PRESENT-- LIVES A FRAGMENT OF THE PAST. SOMEWHERE IN YESTERDAY-- LIES THE KEY TO TOMORROW.
AND I AM EVER YOURS -- TO COMMAND!
YOUR WORDS ARE SPOKE!
THE DIE IS CAST!
SO SHALL IT BE!
THE SILVER SURFER'S TOMORROW...
...AND THE WORLD'S!
NEXT: ORIGINS
FEATURING THE AWARD-WINNING ARTISTRY OF JON J MUTH!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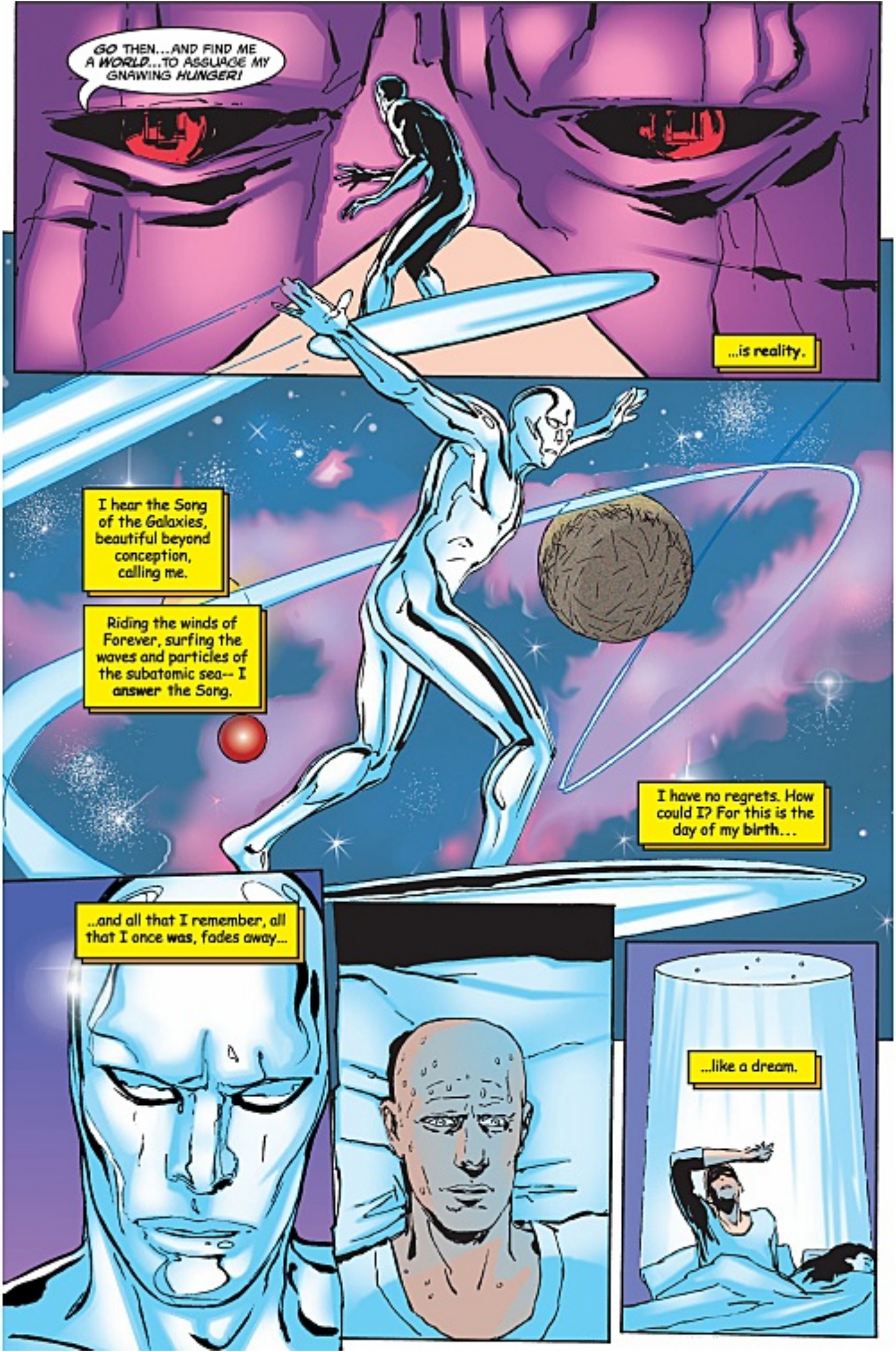
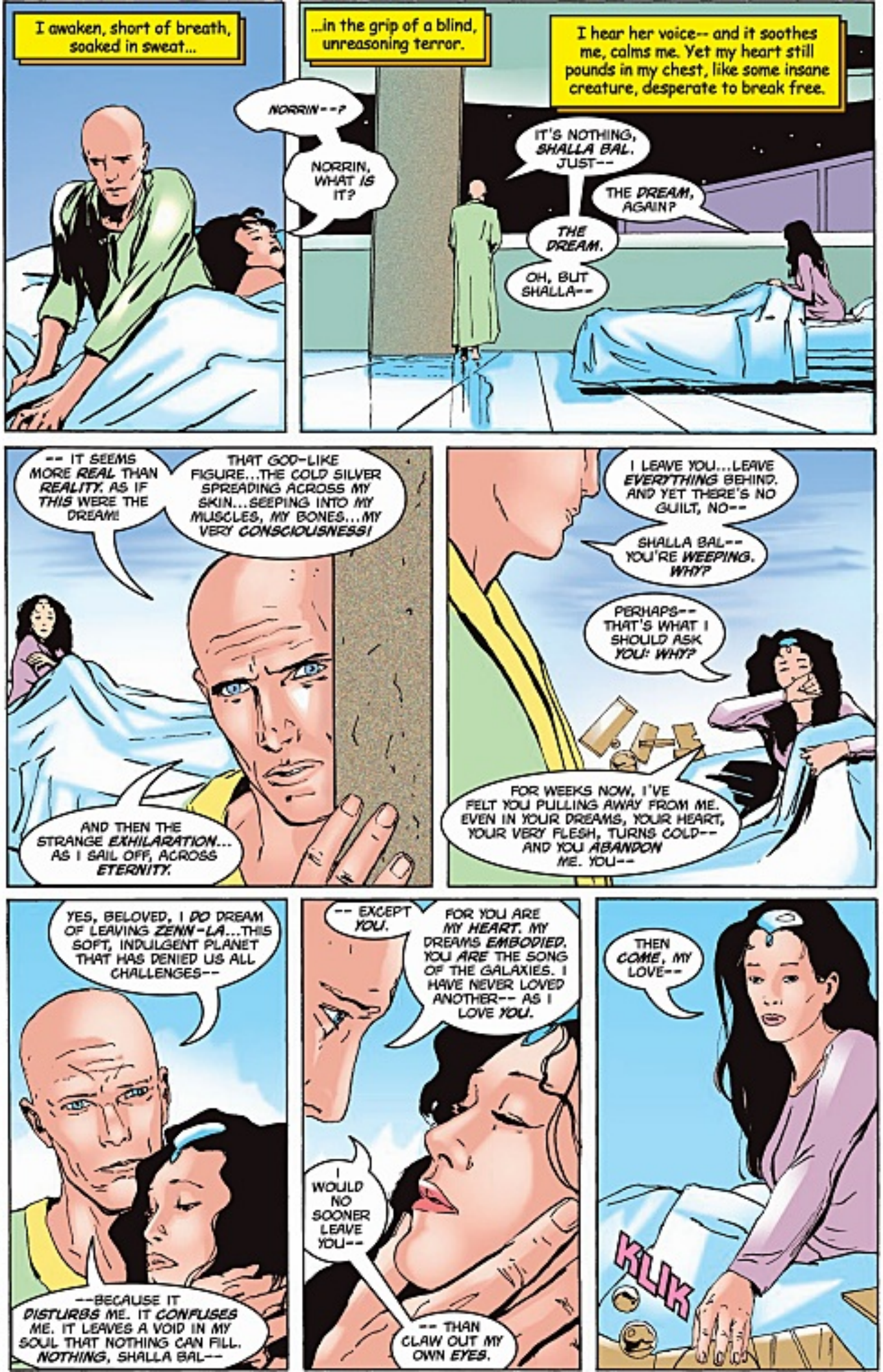
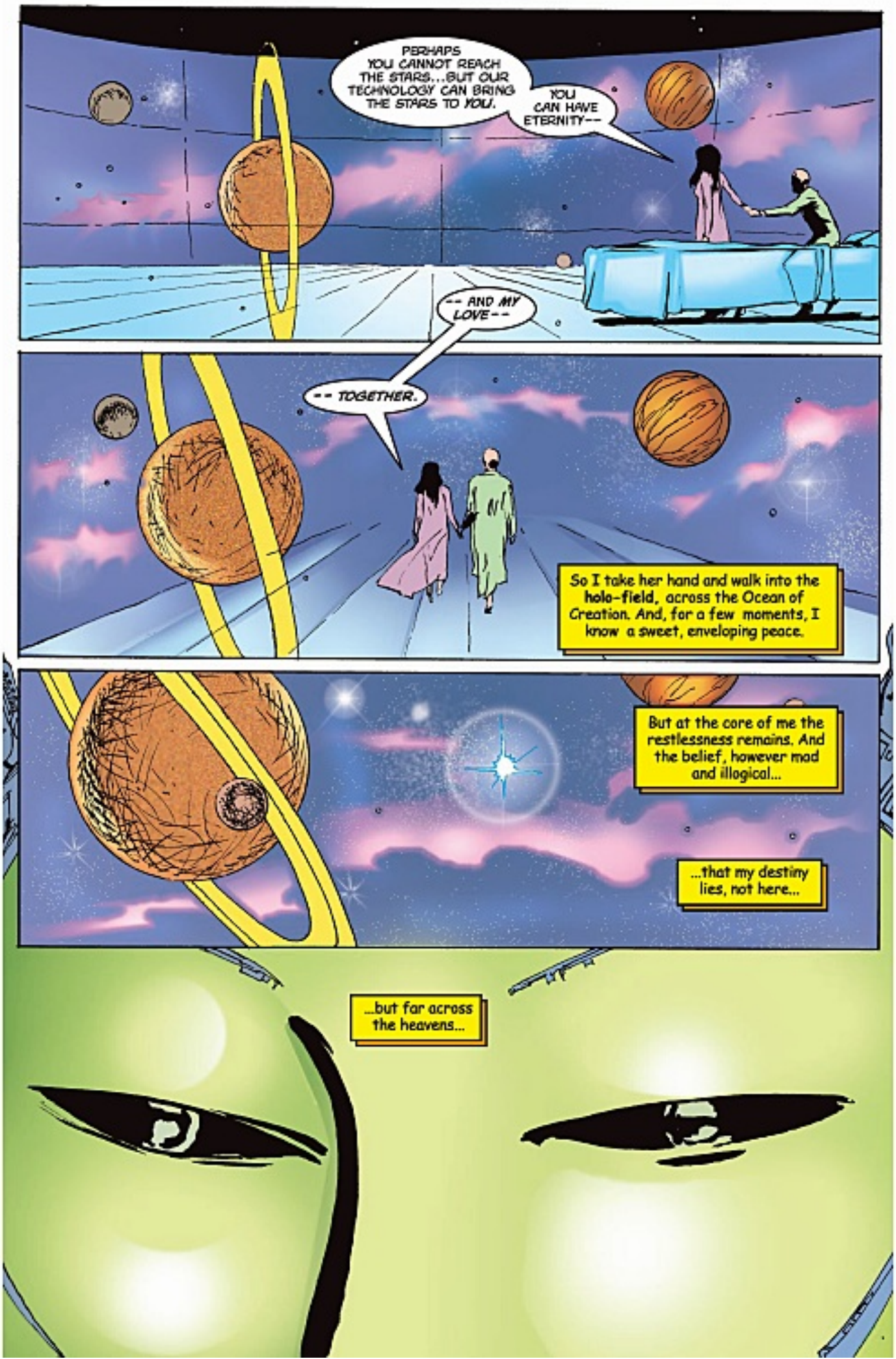
DeMATTEIS
MOTH

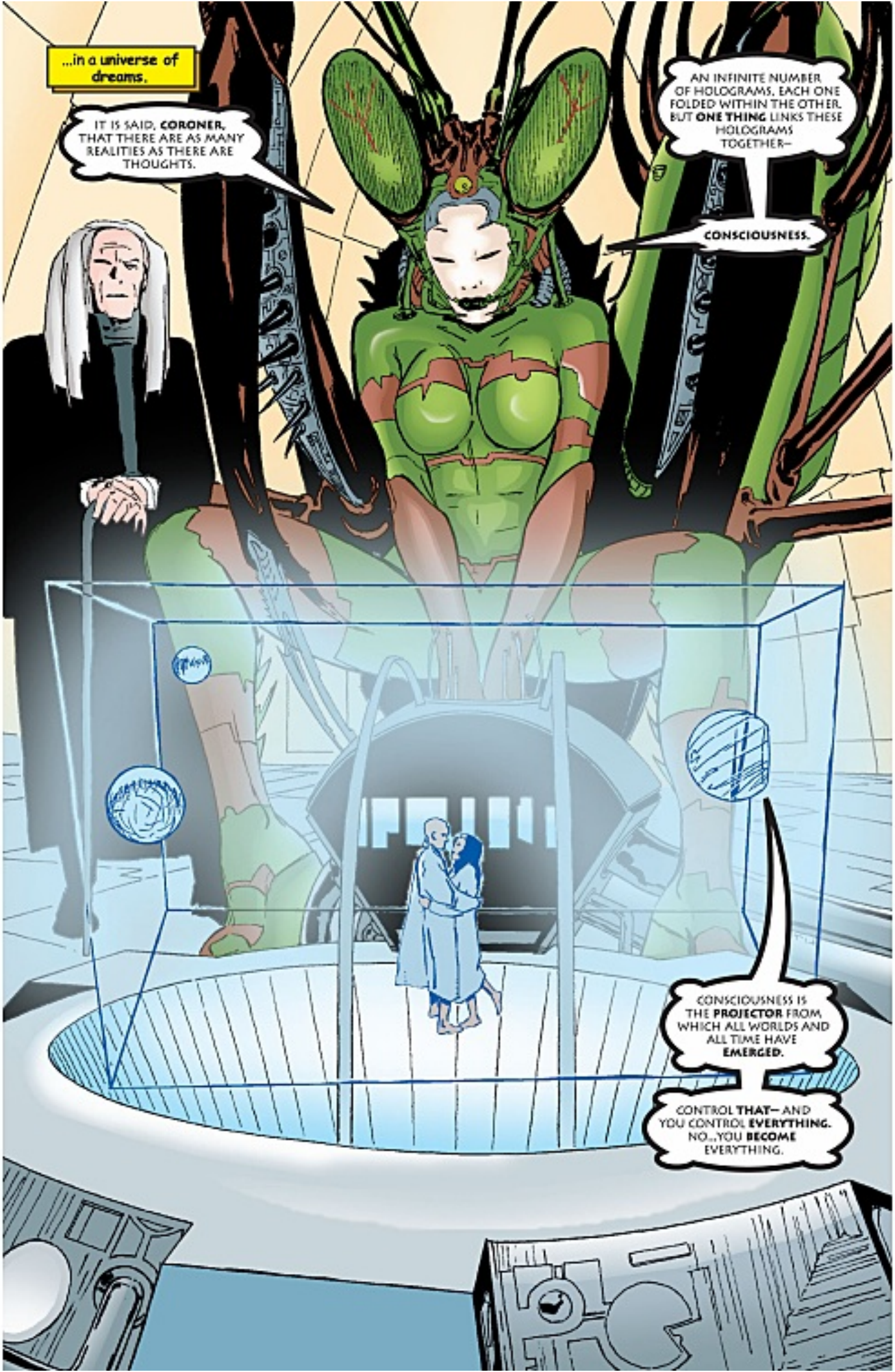
AT THE COMMAND OF GALACTUS... YOU HAVE FALLEN!!
AND NOW... AT MY COMMAND ONCE AGAIN...
...I BID YOU... RISE!!
In an instant that contains infinity-- I am transformed.
Stan Lee presents
SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL
Chapter one!
ORIGINS
Starring The SILVER SURFER
JOHN MARC DeMATTEIS • WRITER - JON J MUTH • ILLUSTRATOR
JOHN COSTANZA • LETTERER - TOM SMITH • COLORIST
JAYE GARDNER • EDITOR - BOB HARRAS • CHIEF
ACKNOWLEDGING THE CLASSIC WORK OF STAN LEE and JOHN BUSCEMA from SILVER SURFER #1

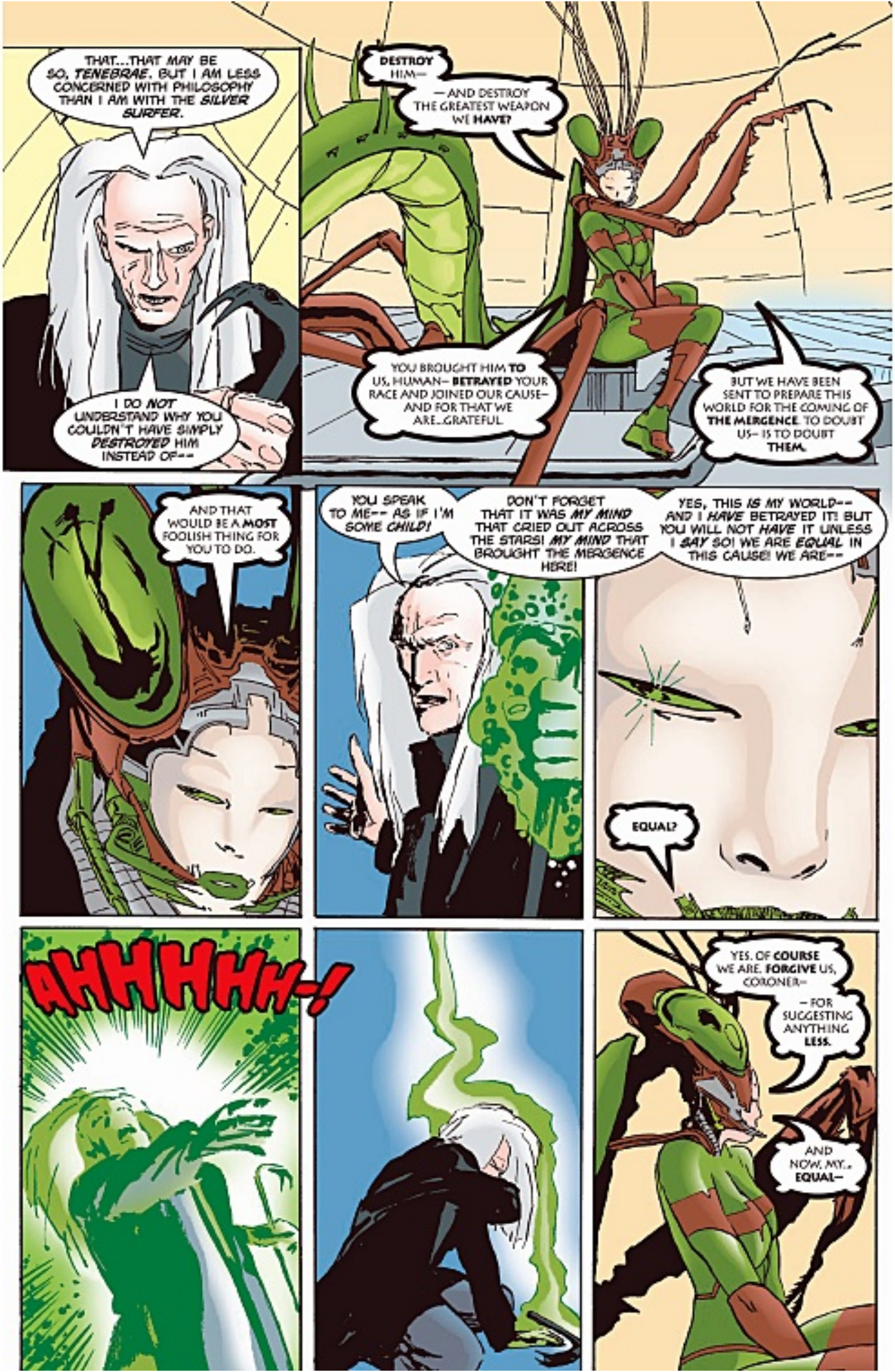
The giant, the god, is talking-- but his words echo meaninglessly in my mind.
What has he done to me? Stripped away my humanity...buried it within a cocoon of silver!
AND NOW... TO TRANSPORT YOU THROUGH THE ENDLESS COSMOS...
I should be horrified. I should be disgusted. Why, then, do I feel a wave of ecstasy moving through my being? Why, then, do I feel alive, free...
...for the first time in my life?
...I SHALL PROVIDE THE PERFECT VEHICLE!
NOW, AND FOREVERMORE... YOU ARE MY HERALD!
NOW, AND FOREVERMORE... YOU ARE TRULY...THE SILVER SURFER!
"Silver Surfer." He speaks the name-- and I know, with every cell in my body, that it is my name.
Norrin Radd was a lie, an illusion-- and this...


GO THEN...AND FIND ME A WORLD...TO ASSUAGE MY GNAWING HUNGER!
...is reality.
I hear the Song of the Galaxies, beautiful beyond conception, calling me.
Riding the winds of Forever, surfing the waves and particles of the subatomic sea-- I answer the Song.
I have no regrets. How could I? For this is the day of my birth...
...and all that I remember, all that I once was, fades away...
...like a dream.

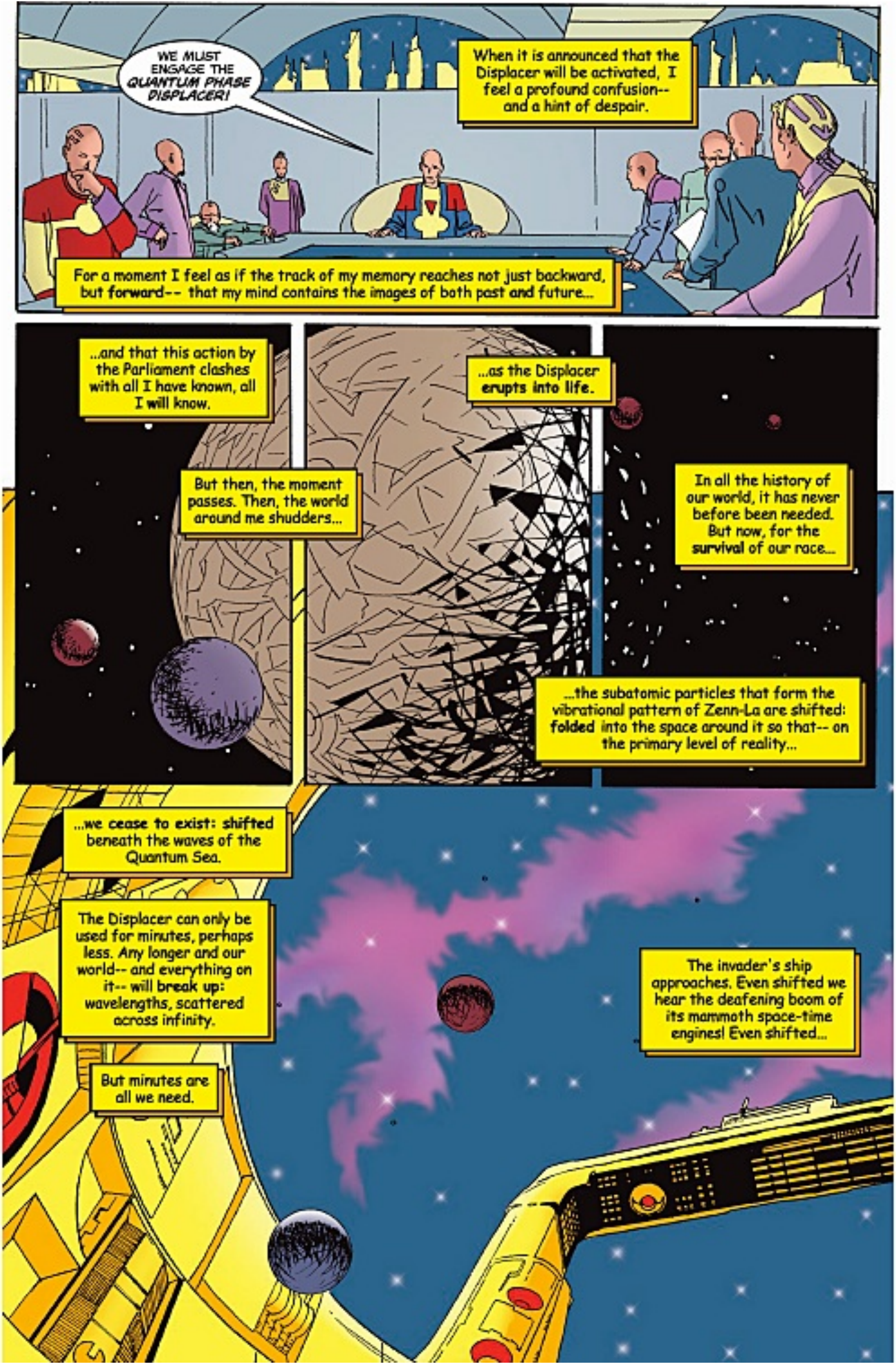

I awaken, short of breath, soaked in sweat...
NORRIN--?
NORRIN, WHAT IS IT?
...in the grip of a blind, unreasoning terror.
I hear her voice-- and it soothes me, calms me. Yet my heart still pounds in my chest, like some insane creature, desperate to break free.
IT'S NOTHING, SHALLA BAL. JUST--
THE DREAM, AGAIN?
THE DREAM.
OH, BUT SHALLA--
-- IT SEEMS MORE REAL THAN REALITY. AS IF THIS WERE THE DREAM!
THAT GOD-LIKE FIGURE...THE COLD SILVER SPREADING ACROSS MY SKIN...SEEPING INTO MY MUSCLES, MY BONES...MY VERY CONSCIOUSNESS!
AND THEN THE STRANGE EXHILARATION... AS I SAIL OFF, ACROSS ETERNITY.
I LEAVE YOU...LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND. AND YET THERE'S NO GUILT, NO--
SHALLA BAL-- YOU'RE WEEPING. WHY?
PERHAPS-- THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD ASK YOU: WHY?
FOR WEEKS NOW, I'VE FELT YOU PULLING AWAY FROM ME. EVEN IN YOUR DREAMS, YOUR HEART, YOUR VERY FLESH, TURNS COLD-- AND YOU ABANDON ME. YOU--
YES, BELOVED, I DO DREAM OF LEAVING ZENN-LA...THIS SOFT, INDULGENT PLANET THAT HAS DENIED US ALL CHALLENGES--
--BECAUSE IT DISTURBS ME. IT CONFUSES ME. IT LEAVES A VOID IN MY SOUL THAT NOTHING CAN FILL. NOTHING, SHALLA BAL--
-- EXCEPT YOU.
FOR YOU ARE MY HEART. MY DREAMS EMBODIED. YOU ARE THE SONG OF THE GALAXIES. I HAVE NEVER LOVED ANOTHER-- AS I LOVE YOU.
I WOULD NO SOONER LEAVE YOU--
-- THAN CLAW OUT MY OWN EYES.
THEN COME, MY LOVE--
KLIK


PERHAPS YOU CANNOT REACH THE STARS...BUT OUR TECHNOLOGY CAN BRING THE STARS TO YOU.
YOU CAN HAVE ETERNITY--
-- AND MY LOVE--
-- TOGETHER.
So I take her hand and walk into the holo-field, across the Ocean of Creation. And, for a few moments, I know a sweet, enveloping peace.
But at the core of me the restlessness remains. And the belief, however mad and illogical...
...that my destiny lies, not here...
...but far across the heavens...

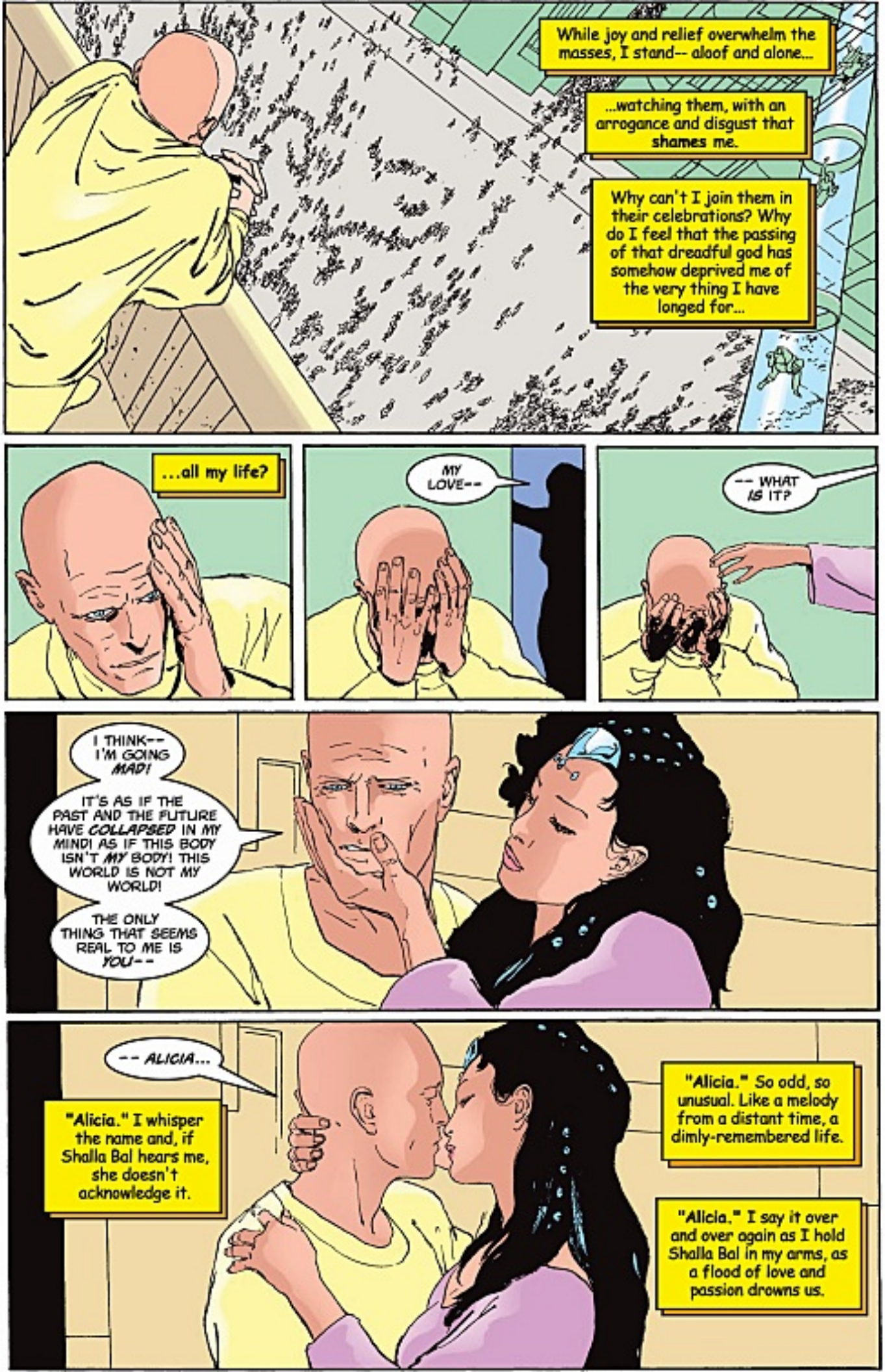

...in a universe of dreams.
IT IS SAID, CORONER, THAT THERE ARE AS MANY REALITIES AS THERE ARE THOUGHTS.
AN INFINITE NUMBER OF HOLOGRAMS, EACH ONE FOLDED WITHIN THE OTHER. BUT ONE THING LINKS THESE HOLOGRAMS TOGETHER—
CONSCIOUSNESS.
CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE PROJECTOR FROM WHICH ALL WORLDS AND ALL TIME HAVE EMERGED.
CONTROL THAT— AND YOU CONTROL EVERYTHING. NO...YOU BECOME EVERYTHING.

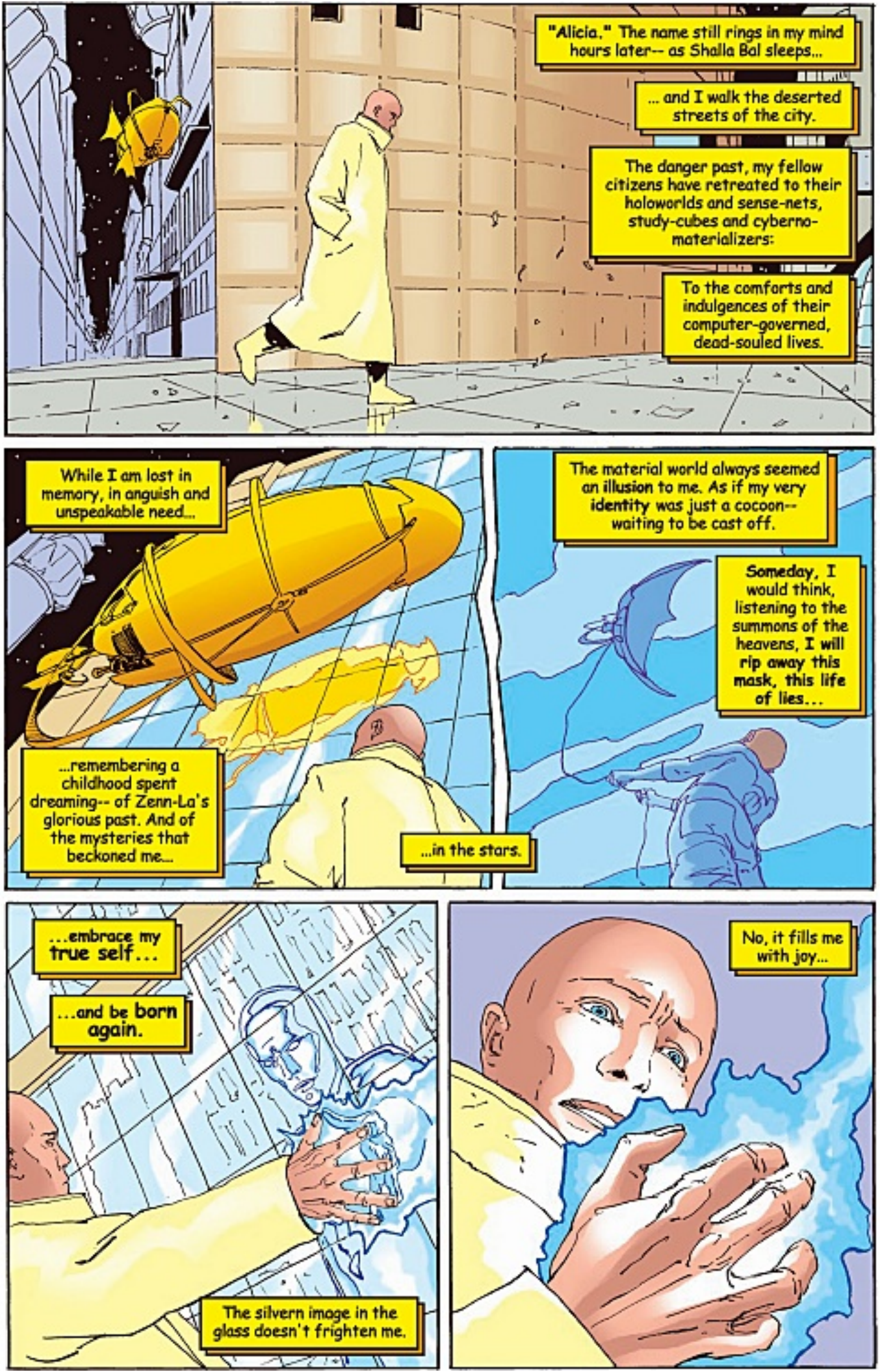

THAT...THAT MAY BE SO, TENEBRAE. BUT I AM LESS CONCERNED WITH PHILOSOPHY THAN I AM WITH THE SILVER SURFER.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU COULDN'T HAVE SIMPLY DESTROYED HIM INSTEAD OF--
DESTROY HIM--
--AND DESTROY THE GREATEST WEAPON WE HAVE?
YOU BROUGHT HIM TO US, HUMAN-- BETRAYED YOUR RACE AND JOINED OUR CAUSE-- AND FOR THAT WE ARE...GRATEFUL.
BUT WE HAVE BEEN SENT TO PREPARE THIS WORLD FOR THE COMING OF THE MERGENCE. TO DOUBT US-- IS TO DOUBT THEM.
AND THAT WOULD BE A MOST FOOLISH THING FOR YOU TO DO.
YOU SPEAK TO ME-- AS IF I'M SOME CHILD!
DON'T FORGET THAT IT WAS MY MIND THAT CRIED OUT ACROSS THE STARS! MY MIND THAT BROUGHT THE MERGENCE HERE!
YES, THIS IS MY WORLD-- AND I HAVE BETRAYED IT! BUT YOU WILL NOT HAVE IT UNLESS I SAY SO! WE ARE EQUAL IN THIS CAUSE! WE ARE--
EQUAL?
AHHHHH-!
YES. OF COURSE WE ARE. FORGIVE US, CORONER--
--FOR SUGGESTING ANYTHING LESS.
AND NOW, MY... EQUAL--

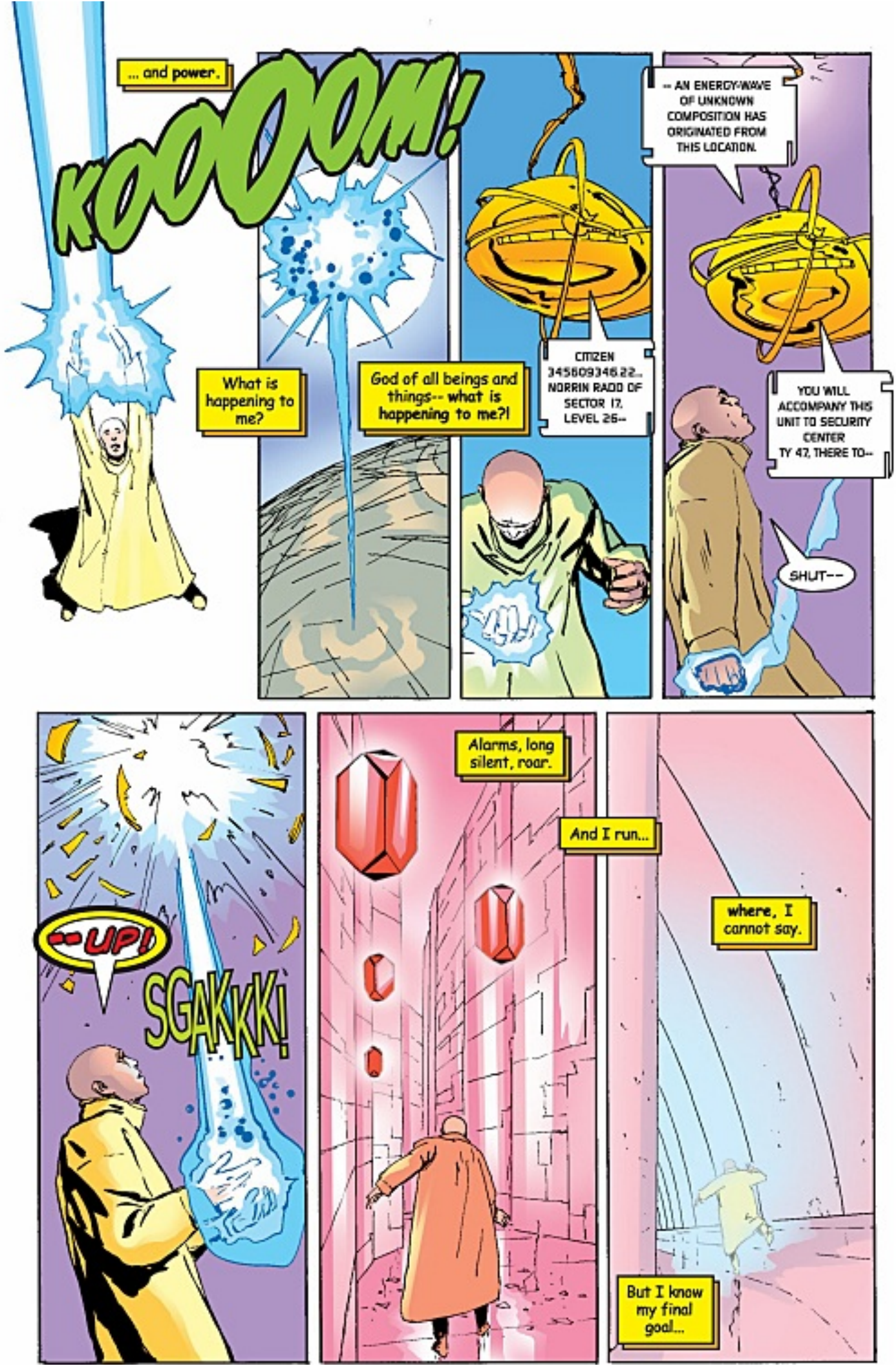
–LET US RETURN–
KLIK-WHIRRRRRRR
"–TO THE TASK AT HAND."
FREE MEN OF ZENN-LA...ATTEND MY WORDS!
A GIGANTIC ALIEN SPACECRAFT HAS ENTERED OUR GALAXY, PIERCING ALL NUCLEAR DEFENSES AS THOUGH THEY WERE NON-EXISTENT!
ALL CITIZENS MUST BE PREPARED... FOR A POSSIBLE INVASION!
I hear the Overseer's words-- and I am not surprised. In a way that I can neither fathom nor explain...
...they give me comfort.
Not so Shalla Bal.
NO! WE'VE BEEN AT PEACE FOR AGES! WE'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO FIGHT!
A WELL-TRAINED ENEMY CAN DESTROY US ALL!
But Zenn-La will not be destroyed. I know that. Just as I know that my soul's fate, perhaps its very redemption...
...is married to the monstrous ship that fast approaches.
NEVER. IF WE ARE A PEOPLE UNITED... WE CANNOT BE CONQUERED.
So while the world around me erupts in panic and lunacy, I remain illogically calm.
And filled with a stupid, unyielding hope.
ALL ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT OUR PLANETARY DEFENSES WILL BE HELPLESS AGAINST THE INVADER!
THEN WE HAVE BUT ONE RECOURSE!

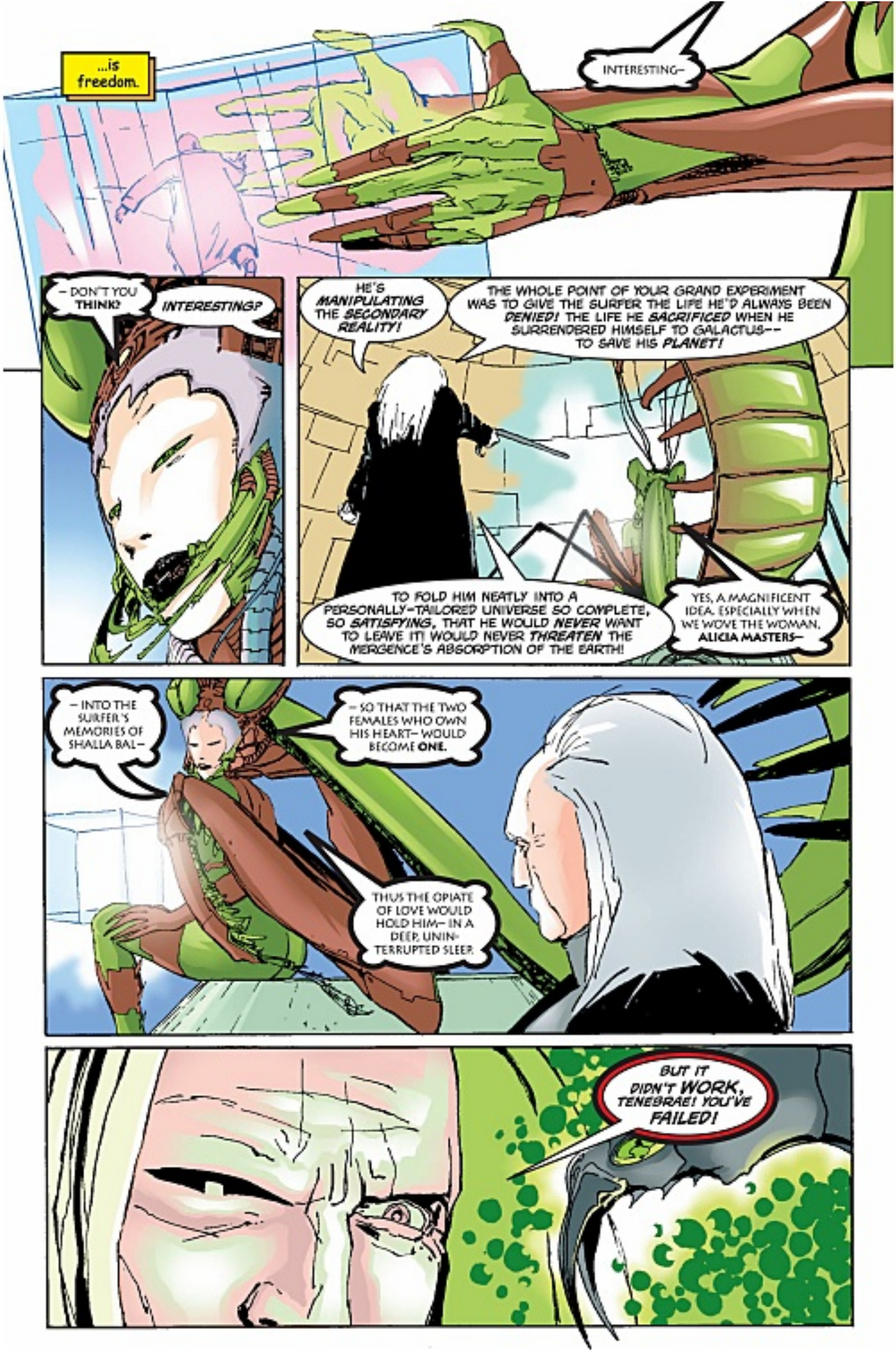

WE MUST ENGAGE THE QUANTUM PHASE DISPLACER!
When it is announced that the Displacer will be activated, I feel a profound confusion-- and a hint of despair.
For a moment I feel as if the track of my memory reaches not just backward, but forward-- that my mind contains the images of both past and future...
...and that this action by the Parliament clashes with all I have known, all I will know.
But then, the moment passes. Then, the world around me shudders...
...as the Displacer erupts into life.
In all the history of our world, it has never before been needed. But now, for the survival of our race...
...the subatomic particles that form the vibrational pattern of Zenn-La are shifted: folded into the space around it so that-- on the primary level of reality...
...we cease to exist: shifted beneath the waves of the Quantum Sea.
The Displacer can only be used for minutes, perhaps less. Any longer and our world-- and everything on it-- will break up: wavelengths, scattered across infinity.
But minutes are all we need.
The invader's ship approaches. Even shifted we hear the deafening boom of its mammoth space-time engines! Even shifted...

...we feel the thunderous consciousness of the being within!
How do I know his face, his name? How could I possibly know such things? And yet I do!
He is Galactus: an omnipatent creature beyond form and understanding, who takes form to manifest himself to lesser beings.
He is Galactus, devourer of worlds-- who requires the energy of a living planet to sustain him!
He is Galactus-- and my heart, my very soul, cries out to him...
...as his world-ship passes on...
...leaving a jubilant Zenn-La in its wake.

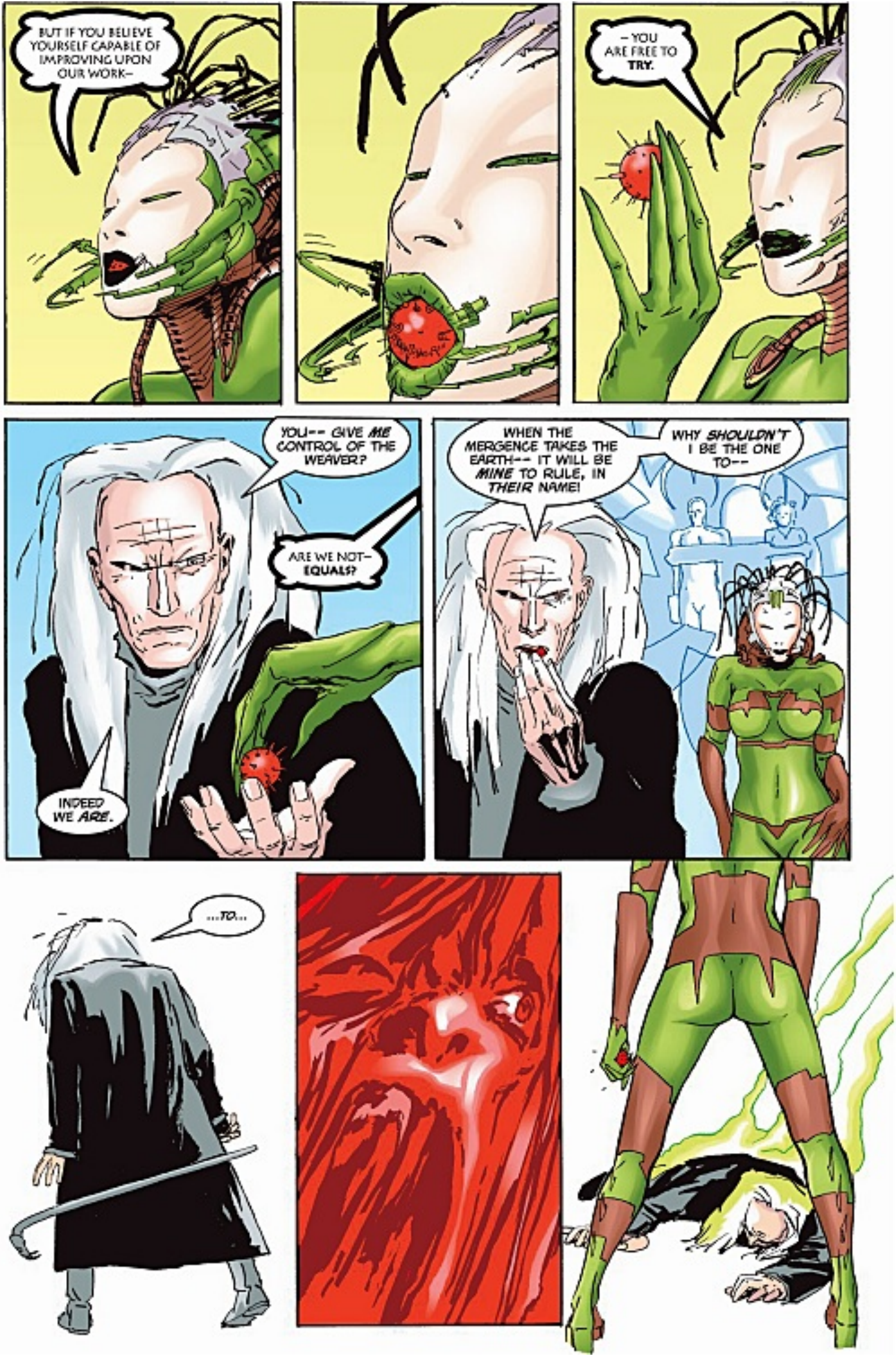

While joy and relief overwhelm the masses, I stand-- aloof and alone...
...watching them, with an arrogance and disgust that shames me.
Why can't I join them in their celebrations? Why do I feel that the passing of that dreadful god has somehow deprived me of the very thing I have longed for...
...all my life?
MY LOVE--
-- WHAT IS IT?
I THINK-- I'M GOING MAD!
IT'S AS IF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE HAVE COLLAPSED IN MY MIND! AS IF THIS BODY ISN'T MY BODY! THIS WORLD IS NOT MY WORLD!
THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMS REAL TO ME IS YOU--
-- ALICIA...
"Alicia." I whisper the name and, if Shalla Bal hears me, she doesn't acknowledge it.
"Alicia." So odd, so unusual. Like a melody from a distant time, a dimly-remembered life.
"Alicia." I say it over and over again as I hold Shalla Bal in my arms, as a flood of love and passion drowns us.

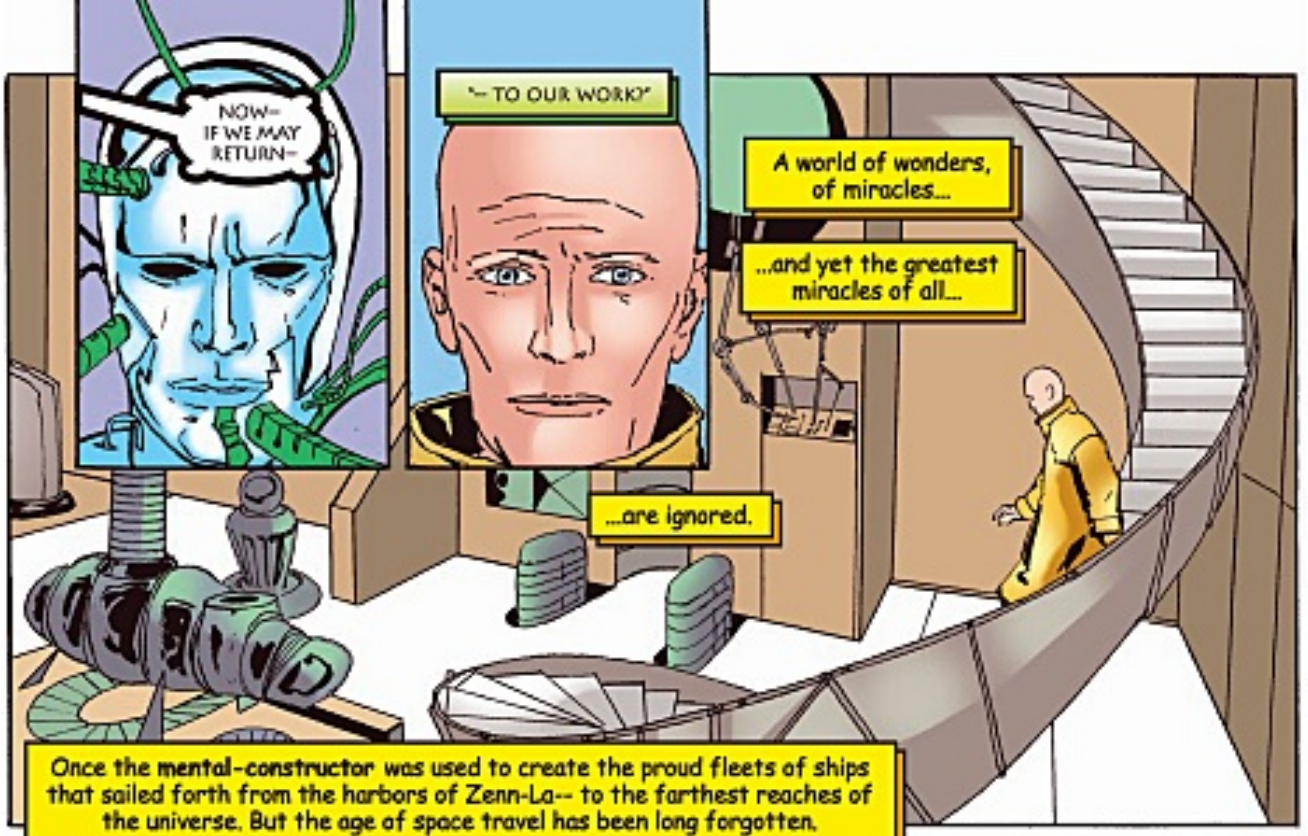

"Alicia." The name still rings in my mind hours later-- as Shalla Bal sleeps...
... and I walk the deserted streets of the city.
The danger past, my fellow citizens have retreated to their holoworlds and sense-nets, study-cubes and cyberno-materializers:
To the comforts and indulgences of their computer-governed, dead-souled lives.
While I am lost in memory, in anguish and unspeakable need...
...remembering a childhood spent dreaming-- of Zenn-La's glorious past. And of the mysteries that beckoned me...
...in the stars.
The material world always seemed an illusion to me. As if my very identity was just a cocoon-- waiting to be cast off.
Someday, I would think, listening to the summons of the heavens, I will rip away this mask, this life of lies...
...embrace my true self...
...and be born again.
The silvern image in the glass doesn't frighten me.
No, it fills me with joy...


... and power.
KOOOOM!
What is happening to me?
God of all beings and things-- what is happening to me?!
CITIZEN 345609346 22... NORRIN RADD OF SECTOR 17, LEVEL 26--
-- AN ENERGY-WAVE OF UNKNOWN COMPOSITION HAS ORIGINATED FROM THIS LOCATION.
YOU WILL ACCOMPANY THIS UNIT TO SECURITY CENTER TY 47, THERE TO--
SHUT--
--UP!
SGAKKK!
Alarms, long silent, roar.
And I run...
where, I cannot say.
But I know my final goal...

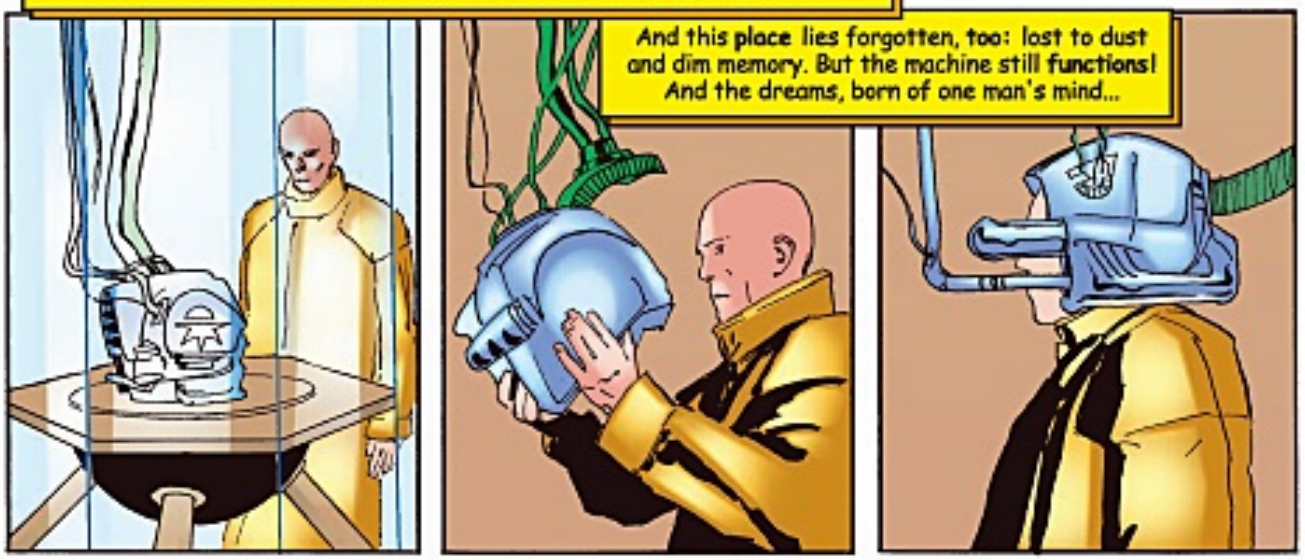

...is freedom.
INTERESTING–
– DON'T YOU THINK?
INTERESTING?
HE'S MANIPULATING THE SECONDARY REALITY!
THE WHOLE POINT OF YOUR GRAND EXPERIMENT WAS TO GIVE THE SURFER THE LIFE HE'D ALWAYS BEEN DENIED! THE LIFE HE SACRIFICED WHEN HE SURRENDERED HIMSELF TO GALACTUS-- TO SAVE HIS PLANET!
TO FOLD HIM NEATLY INTO A PERSONALLY-TAILORED UNIVERSE SO COMPLETE, SO SATISFYING, THAT HE WOULD NEVER WANT TO LEAVE IT! WOULD NEVER THREATEN THE MERGENCE'S ABSORPTION OF THE EARTH!
YES, A MAGNIFICENT IDEA. ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WOVE THE WOMAN, ALICIA MASTERS–
– INTO THE SURFER'S MEMORIES OF SHALLA BAL–
– SO THAT THE TWO FEMALES WHO OWN HIS HEART– WOULD BECOME ONE.
THUS THE OPIATE OF LOVE WOULD HOLD HIM– IN A DEEP, UNINTERRUPTED SLEEP.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK, TENEBRAE! YOU'VE FAILED!

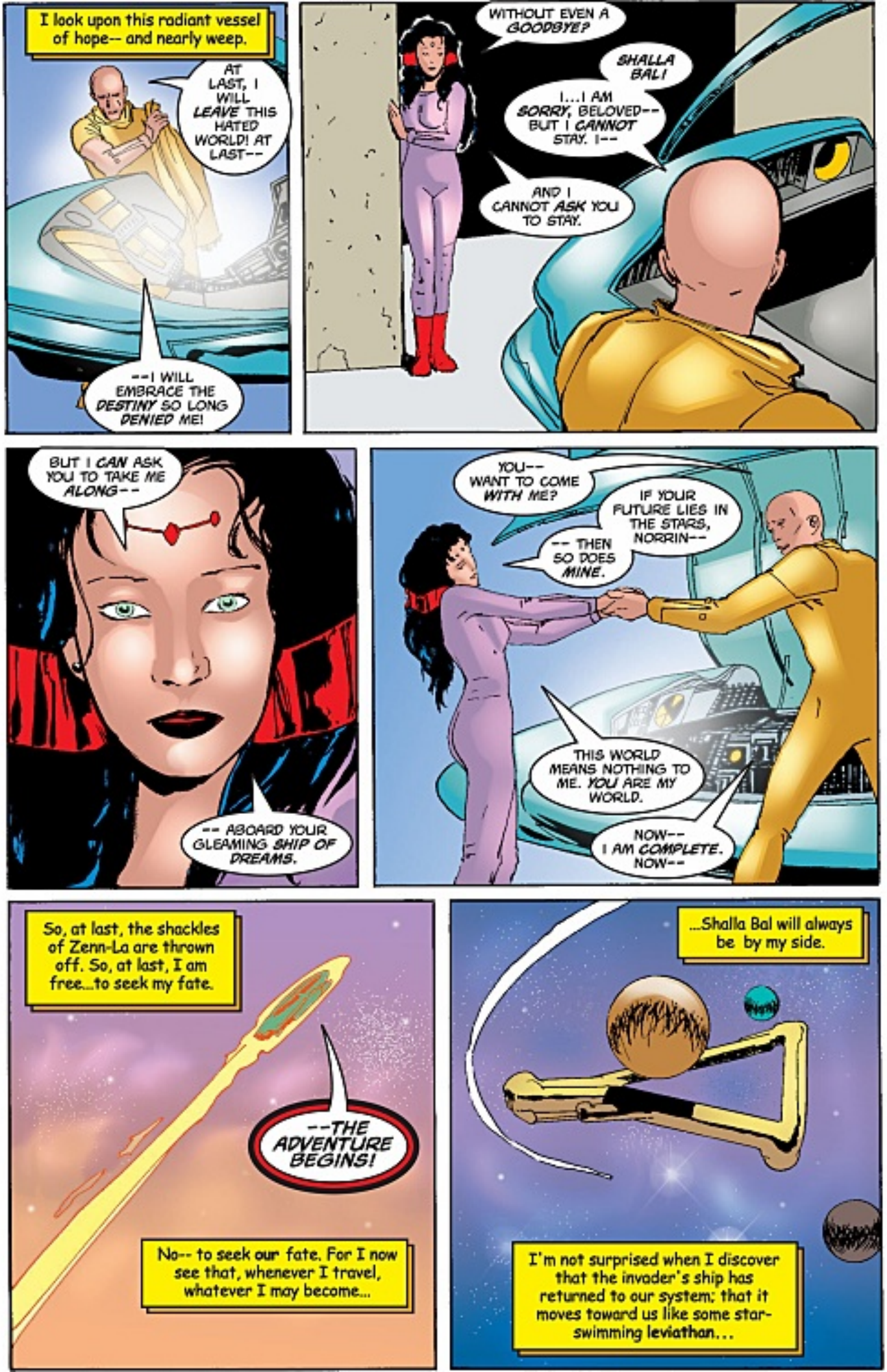
YOUR VISION, AS EVER, IS NARROW, CORONER.
DO YOU FORGET THAT THE **PRIME** PURPOSE OF THIS EXPERIMENT IS NOT TO **ENTANGLE** THE SURFER IN THE SECONDARY REALITY–
– BUT TO LEARN MORE **ABOUT** HIM?
TO STUDY...TO DISSECT...HIS VERY **CONSCIOUSNESS?**
AND, ENSNARED WITHIN **THE WEAVER**– THE WATERS OF HIS PSYCHE ARE OURS TO PLUMB.
WE HAVE BEEN MOTHER OF THE WEAVER FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. OUR MIND JOINED **TO** IT, **GUIDING** IT– EVEN AS IT GUIDES **US.**
HUMAN PHYSICISTS– WHO ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO STUMBLE ONTO THE MOST RUDIMENTARY TRUTHS OF THE UNIVERSE–
– NOW SUSPECT THAT WHAT YOU TAKE TO BE REALITY– IS **PLASTIC**. A CONSTANTLY-CHANGING PATTERN, INFLUENCED– SHAPED AND MOLDED– BY OUR **THOUGHTS.**
WITH THE WEAVER, OUR CONSCIOUSNESS CAN **CREATE** SECONDARY REALITIES– NO LESS TANGIBLE THAN THE **PRIMARY REALITIES** FROM WHICH THEY EMERGE.
COMPLETE UNIVERSES THAT– AS LONG AS OUR CONTROLLING CONSCIOUSNESS MAINTAINS THEM– HAVE **COMPLETE ACTUALITY** FOR THE BEINGS ENSNARED WITHIN THE MACHINE.


BUT IF YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF CAPABLE OF IMPROVING UPON OUR WORK–
– YOU ARE FREE TO TRY.
YOU-- GIVE ME CONTROL OF THE WEAVER?
ARE WE NOT– EQUALS?
INDEED WE ARE.
WHEN THE MERGENCE TAKES THE EARTH-- IT WILL BE MINE TO RULE, IN THEIR NAME!
WHY SHOULDN'T I BE THE ONE TO--
...TO...



Once the **mental-constructor** was used to create the proud fleets of ships that sailed forth from the harbors of Zenn-La-- to the farthest reaches of the universe. But the age of space travel has been long forgotten.

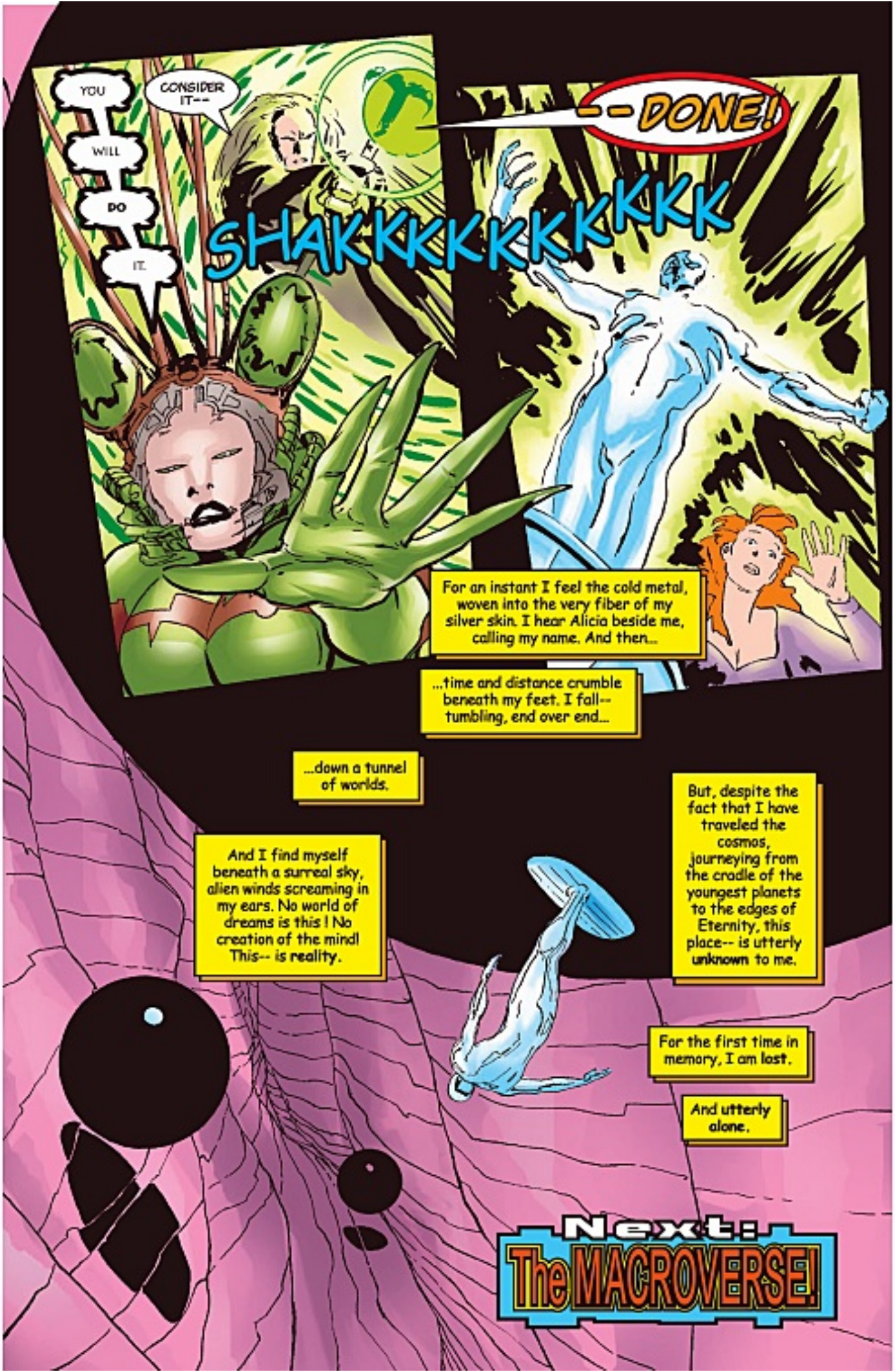

And this **place** lies forgotten, **too**: lost to dust and dim memory. But the machine still **functions**! And the dreams, born of one man's mind...


I look upon this radiant vessel of hope-- and nearly weep.
AT LAST, I WILL LEAVE THIS HATED WORLD! AT LAST--
--I WILL EMBRACE THE DESTINY SO LONG DENIED ME!
WITHOUT EVEN A GOODBYE?
SHALLA BAL!
I...I AM SORRY, BELOVED-- BUT I CANNOT STAY. I--
AND I CANNOT ASK YOU TO STAY.
BUT I CAN ASK YOU TO TAKE ME ALONG--
-- ABOARD YOUR GLEAMING SHIP OF DREAMS.
YOU-- WANT TO COME WITH ME?
IF YOUR FUTURE LIES IN THE STARS, NORRIN--
-- THEN SO DOES MINE.
THIS WORLD MEANS NOTHING TO ME. YOU ARE MY WORLD.
NOW-- I AM COMPLETE. NOW--
So, at last, the shackles of Zenn-La are thrown off. So, at last, I am free...to seek my fate.
--THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!
No-- to seek our fate. For I now see that, whenever I travel, whatever I may become...
...Shalla Bal will always be by my side.
I'm not surprised when I discover that the invader's ship has returned to our system; that it moves toward us like some star-swimming leviathan...

...and that we find ourselves, in a matter of seconds...
...deep in the belly of the whale.
I WAS LIGHT-YEARS FROM YOUR WORLD-- CONSUMING A NEWBORN SUN-- WHEN I SAW THE COSMIC FLARE RISE UP FROM ZENN-LA!
SOMETHING WITHIN THAT GEYSER OF LIGHT AND ENERGY-- SOME CELESTIAL SONG... SOME ANCIENT, FAMILIAR CONSCIOUSNESS...
CALLED TO ME!
IT WAS I WHO SUMMONED YOU, GALACTUS!
I DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY-- BUT I KNOW YOU...I HAVE KNOWN YOU-- ALL MY LIFE!
GLIMPSED YOU IN MY DREAMS-- EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY!
I KNOW THAT YOU HOLD THE KEY TO WHO AND WHAT I AM...AND WHAT I AM MEANT TO BE!
AND THE FEMALE?
OUR HEARTS ARE ONE. WE WALK TOGETHER.
I SEE WITHIN YOU THE SEEDS OF SOMETHING GREAT.
I SEE WITHIN YOU A POWER THAT LIES DORMANT-- WAITING TO BE AWAKENED.
I SEE WITHIN YOU A SPIRIT...

...LIKE SHINING SILVER!
ARE YOU AFRAID, WOMAN?
NO, GALACTUS. FOR I FEEL WITH ALL MY HEART THAT ALL THIS--
-- IS AS IT SHOULD BE!
AND SHE IS RIGHT.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, CORONER? NOTHING COULD CHANGE IT.
FOLDED WITHIN THE REALITY WE HAVE CREATED, HE HAS CREATED THIS GALACTUS CONSTRUCT. HE HAS FOLDED ANOTHER UNIVERSE--
--GUIDING HIM BACK--TO HIMSELF.
HOW CAN YOU SOUND SO CALM? THIS-- THIS IS DISASTROUS!
THE MERGENCE LEARNED LONG AGO TO HONOR THE NATURAL FLOW OF CONSCIOUSNESS. AND NORRIN RADD HAS ALWAYS LED HIM TO THE SILVER SURFER.
WERE WE TO ENFOLD HIM IN TEN TIMES TEN MILLION UNIVERSES-- THE END RESULT WOULD ALWAYS BE THE SAME.
AT THE HAND OF GALACTUS... YOU HAVE FALLEN!
AND NOW...AT MY COMMAND ONCE AGAIN...
I BID YOU... RISE!
HIS SELF-AWARENESS IS GROWING. THE TIME IS COMING WHEN HE WILL KNOW EVERYTHING. DREAMS WITHIN DREAMS CAN NO LONGER CONTAIN HIM.
WE MUST SEEK ANOTHER WAY.

LOOK UPON ME, SHALLA BAL-- AND DO NOT FEAR MY TRUE FACE!
FEAR IT? HOW COULD I?
FOR AT LAST, MY LOVE--
-- I HAVE YOU BACK!
ALICIA-- ?!
YES, IT'S ME, SURFER-- I KNOW THAT NOW!
I'M NOT SURE WHERE WE ARE, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US, BUT WE--
GALACTUS-- DOES NOT UNDER-STAND! WHAT-- WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?!
WHY AM I *
GALACTUS-- OR THE IMAGE OF GALACTUS-- FADES AWAY! THE VERY WALLS OF THE SHIP HAVE BECOME TRANSPARENT--
--AS IF REALITY ITSELF GROWS THINNER!
WE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED, ALICIA, IN A WEB OF LIES! A WEB OF DREAMS!
BUT WE WILL BE TRAPPED NO LONGER!
CORONER- HE IS SLIDING THROUGH THE UNIVERSES- HIS CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNING TO THE PRIMARY REALITY.
WE HAVE TOLD YOU WHAT YOU MUST DO - AND IF YOU VALUE YOUR PLACE IN THE MERGENCE-


YOU
WILL
DO
IT.
CONSIDER IT--
--DONE!
SHAKKKKKKKKK
For an instant I feel the cold metal, woven into the very fiber of my silver skin. I hear Alicia beside me, calling my name. And then...
...time and distance crumble beneath my feet. I fall-- tumbling, end over end...
...down a tunnel of worlds.
And I find myself beneath a surreal sky, alien winds screaming in my ears. No world of dreams is this! No creation of the mind! This-- is reality.
But, despite the fact that I have traveled the cosmos, journeying from the cradle of the youngest planets to the edges of Eternity, this place-- is utterly unknown to me.
For the first time in memory, I am lost.
And utterly alone.
Next:
The MACROVERSE!

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SILVER SURFER
JULY #141
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WHAT DREAD FATE AWAITS THE SURFER...
DeMATTEIS
MUTH
...BEYOND THE BARRIER?

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Chapter Two
INTO THE MACRO VERSE
by
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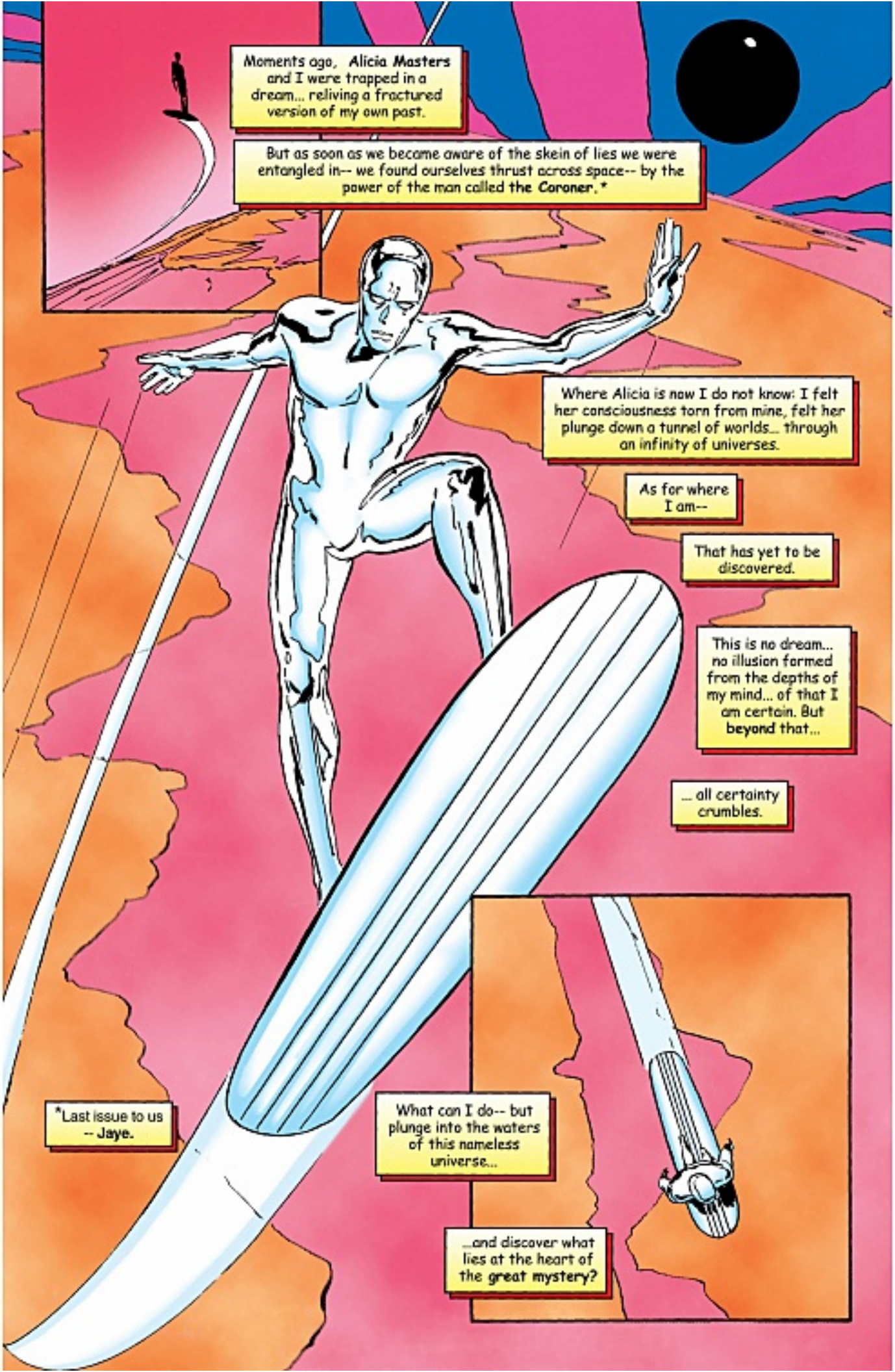
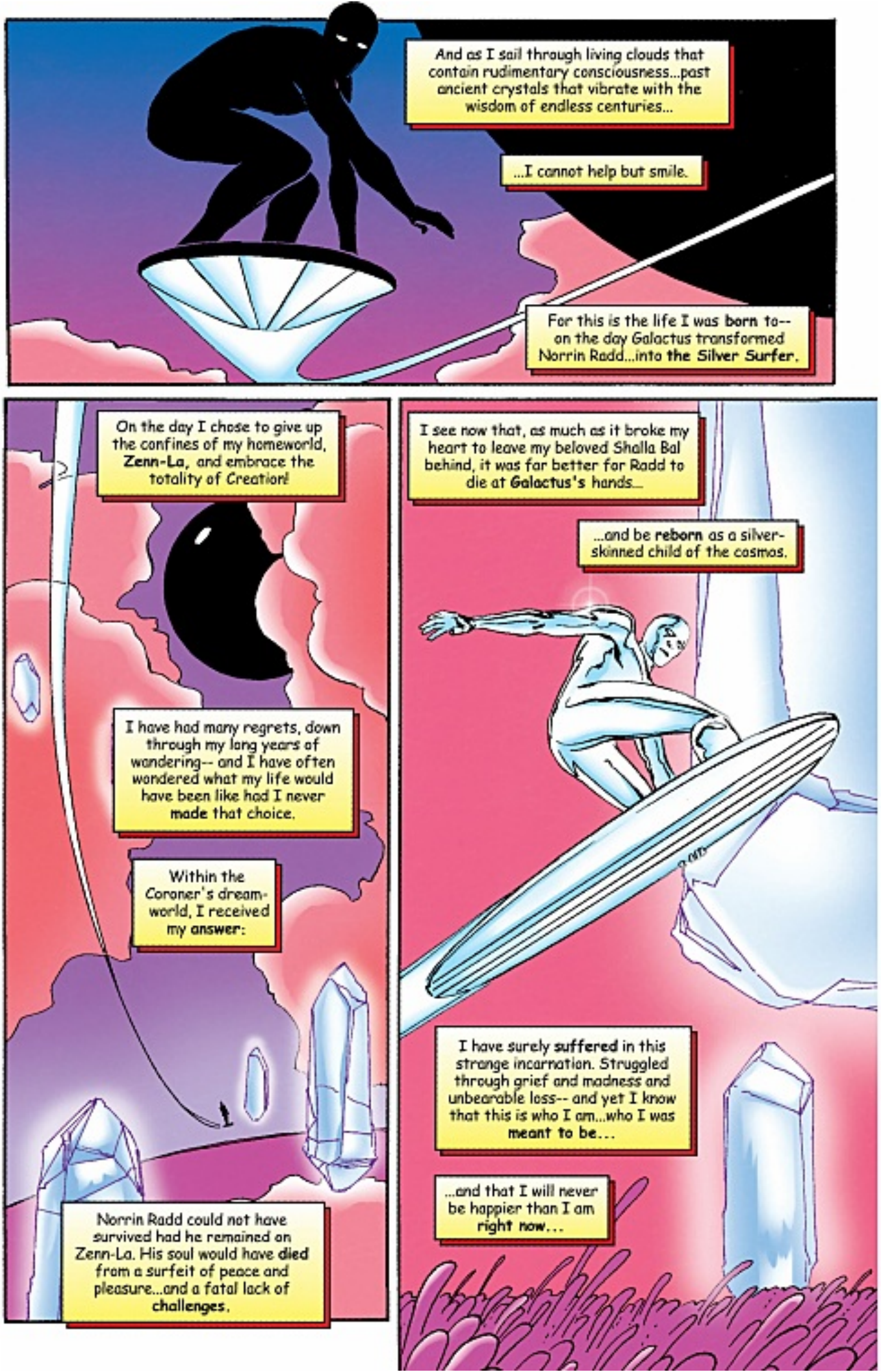
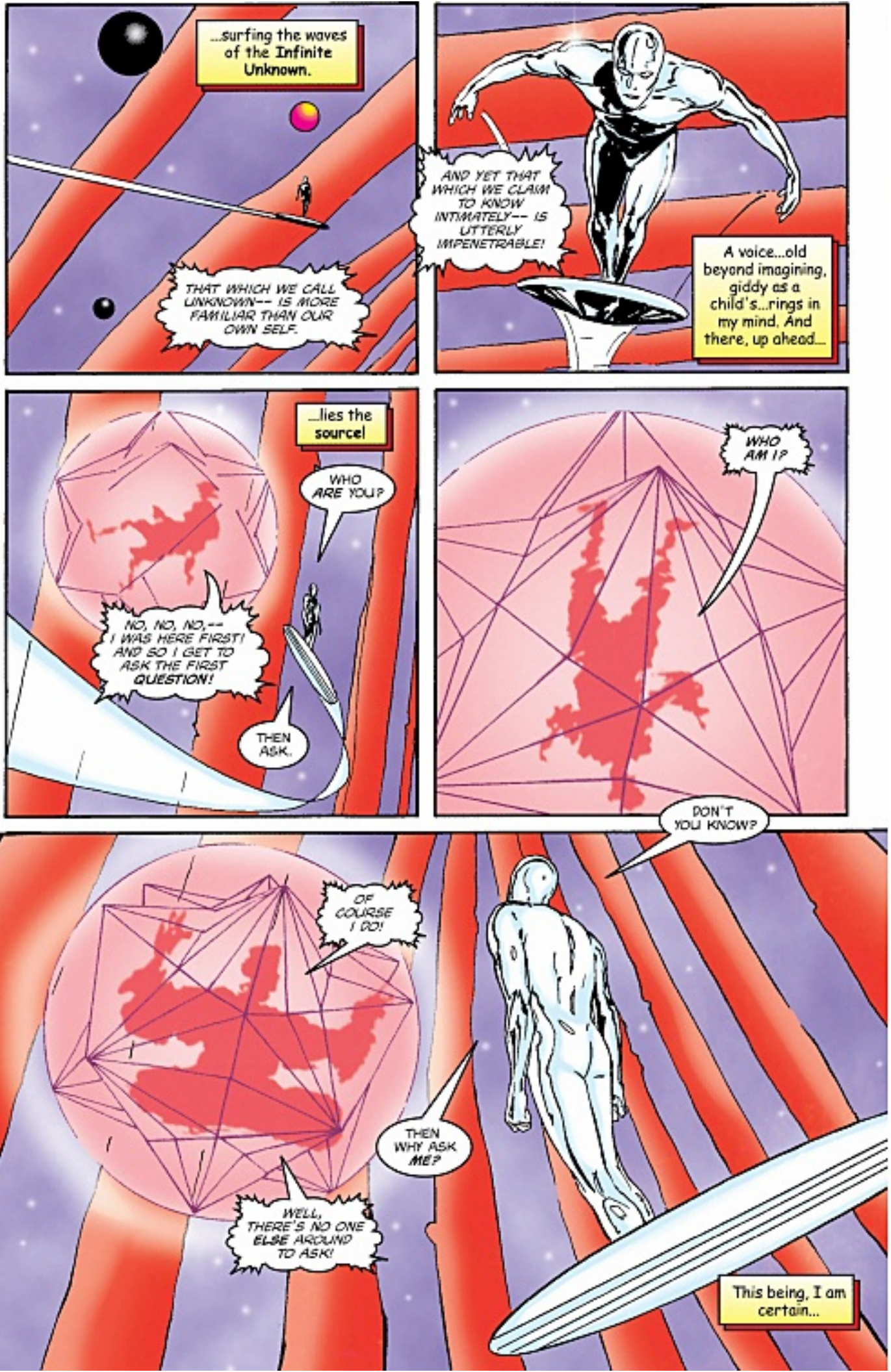
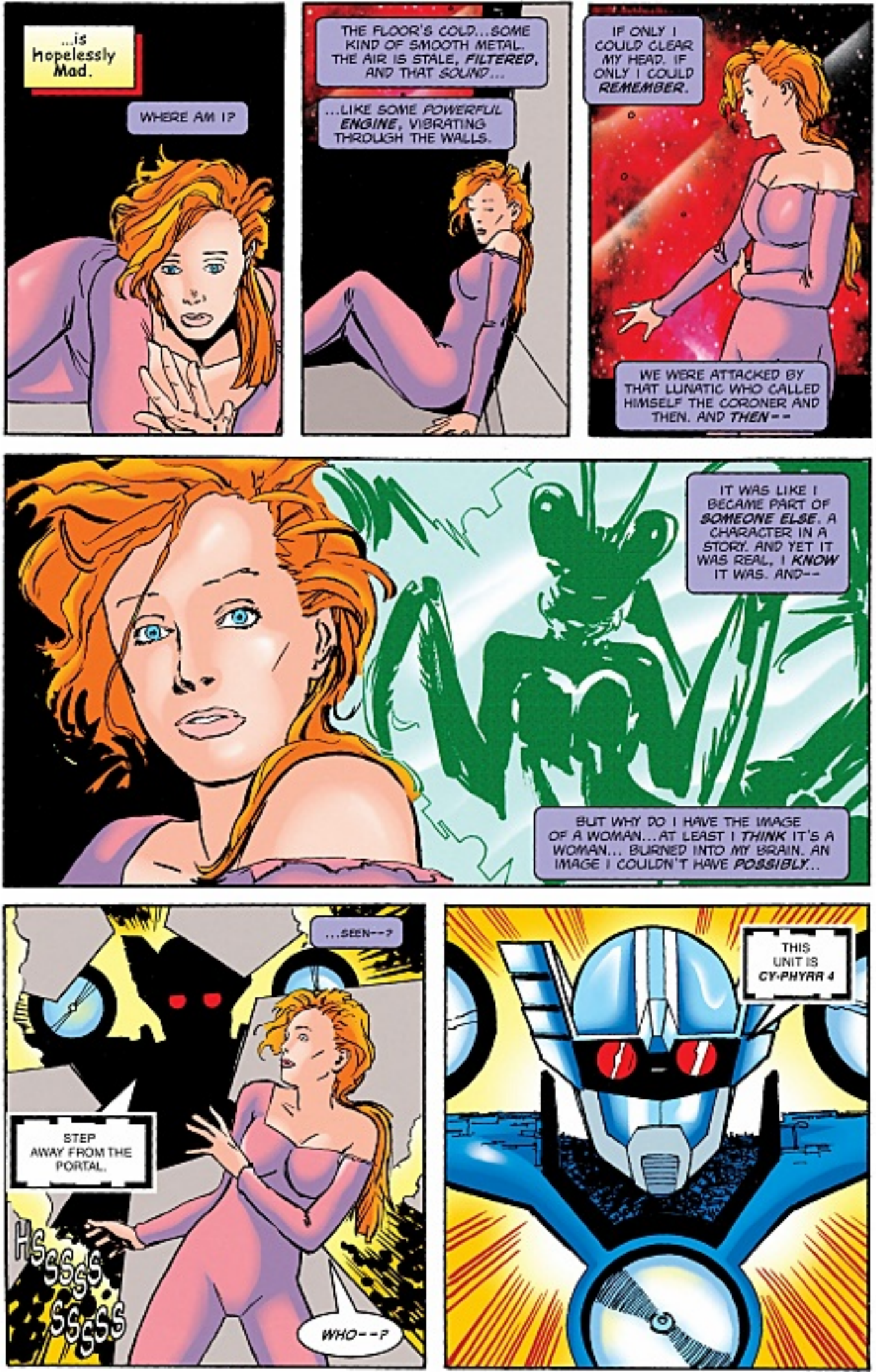
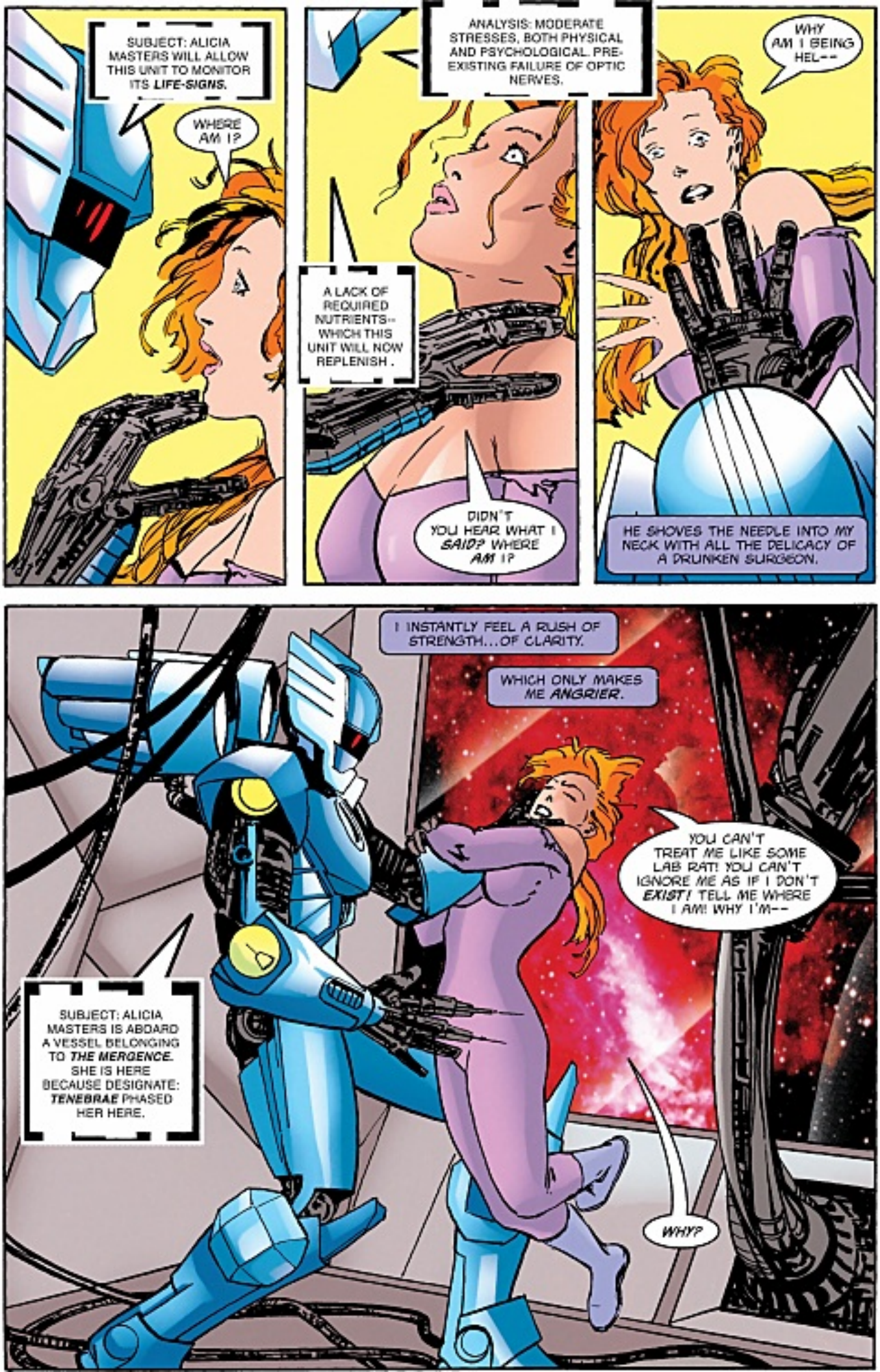
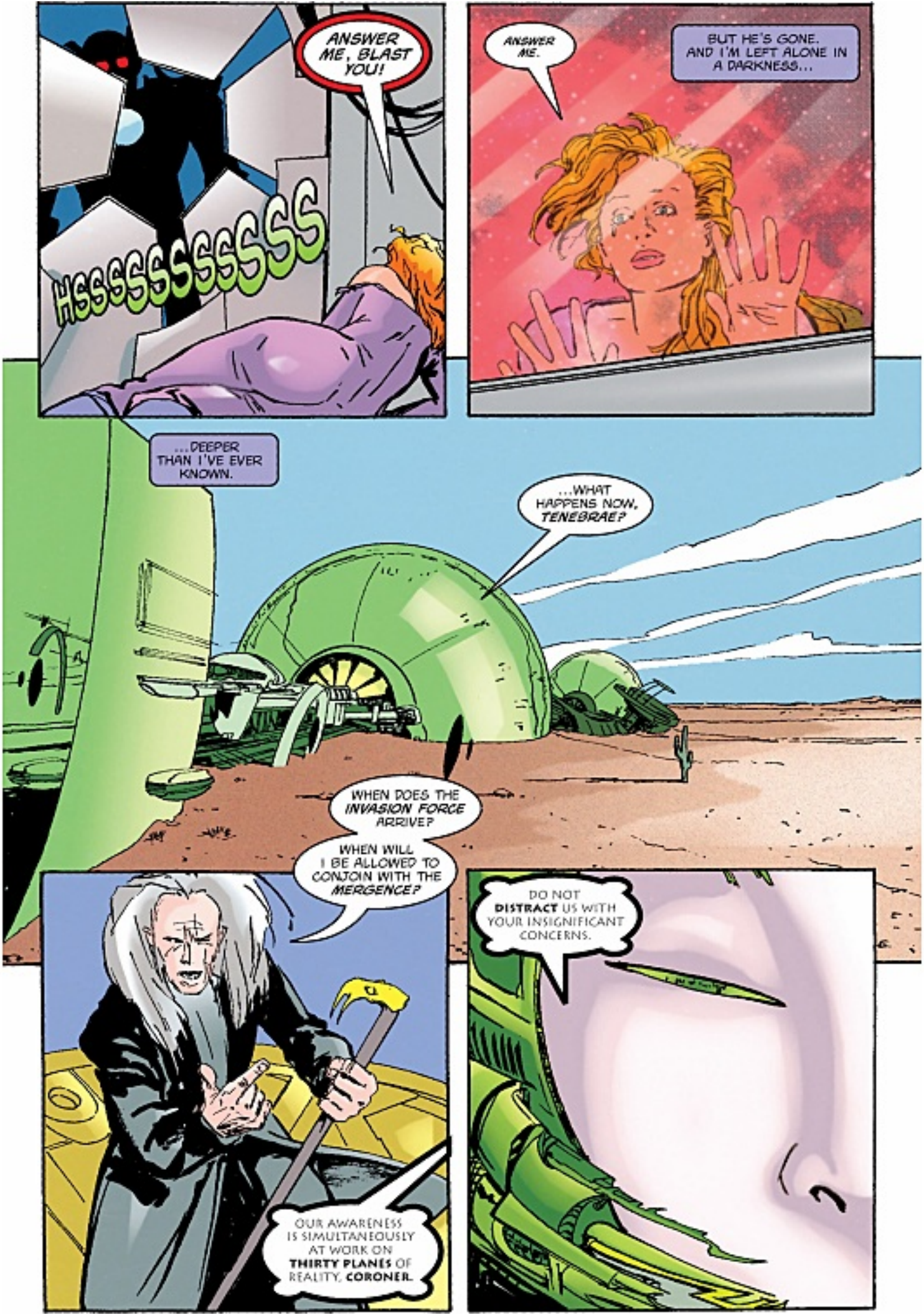

Moments ago, Alicia Masters and I were trapped in a dream... reliving a fractured version of my own past.
But as soon as we became aware of the skein of lies we were entangled in-- we found ourselves thrust across space-- by the power of the man called the Coroner.*
Where Alicia is now I do not know: I felt her consciousness torn from mine, felt her plunge down a tunnel of worlds... through an infinity of universes.
As for where I am--
That has yet to be discovered.
This is no dream... no illusion formed from the depths of my mind... of that I am certain. But beyond that...
... all certainty crumbles.
What can I do-- but plunge into the waters of this nameless universe...
...and discover what lies at the heart of the great mystery?
*Last issue to us -- Jaye.

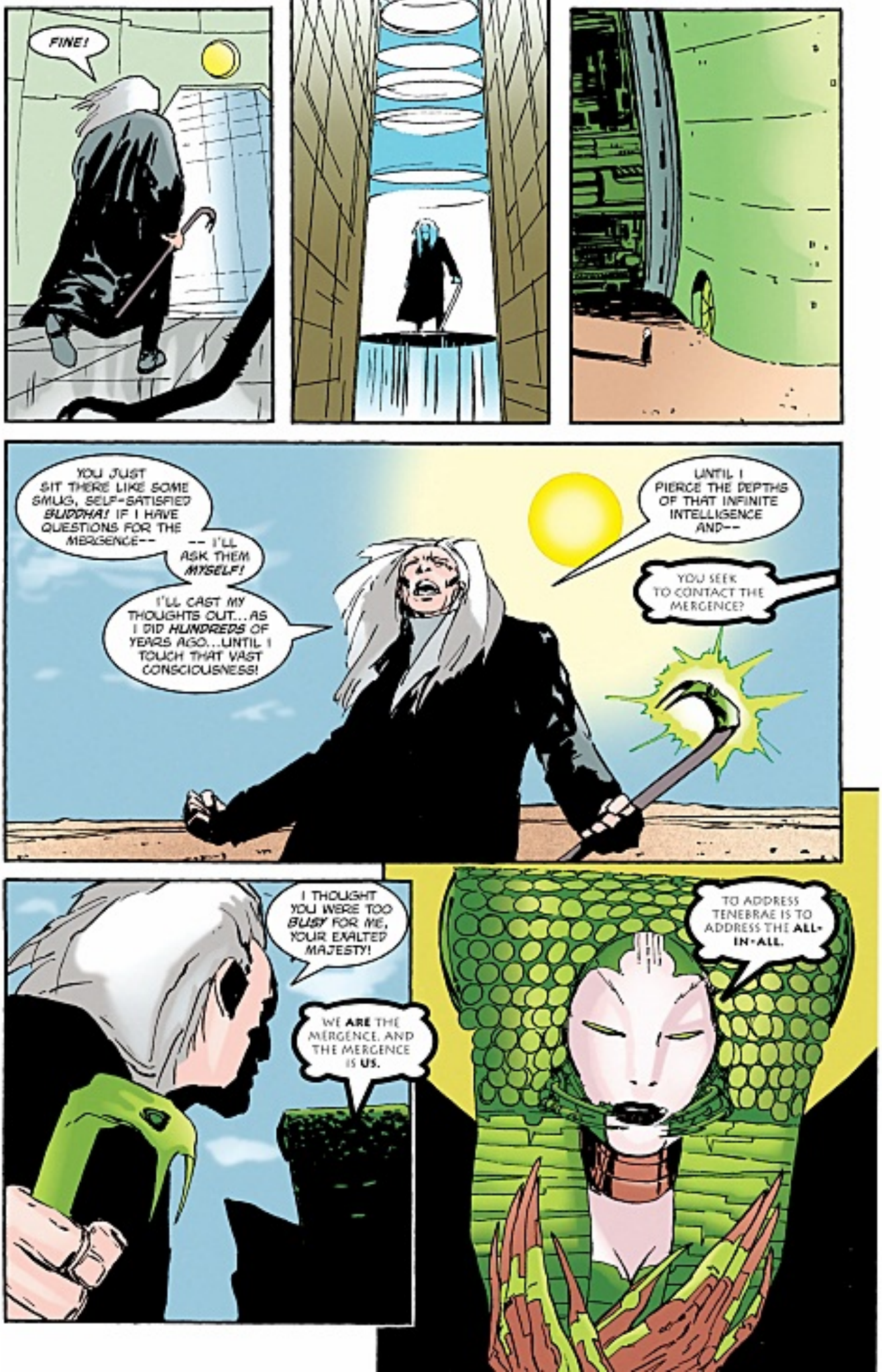

And as I sail through living clouds that contain rudimentary consciousness...past ancient crystals that vibrate with the wisdom of endless centuries...
...I cannot help but smile.
For this is the life I was **born** to-- on the day Galactus transformed Norrin Radd...into **the Silver Surfer.**
On the day I chose to give up the confines of my homeworld, **Zenn-La,** and embrace the totality of Creation!
I have had many regrets, down through my long years of wandering-- and I have often wondered what my life would have been like had I never **made** that choice.
Within the Coroner's dream-world, I received my **answer:**
Norrin Radd could not have survived had he remained on Zenn-La. His soul would have **died** from a surfeit of peace and pleasure...and a fatal lack of **challenges.**
I see now that, as much as it broke my heart to leave my beloved Shalla Bal behind, it was far better for Radd to die at **Galactus's** hands...
...and be **reborn** as a silver-skinned child of the cosmos.
I have surely **suffered** in this strange incarnation. Struggled through grief and madness and unbearable loss-- and yet I know that this is who I am...who I was **meant to be...**
...and that I will never be happier than I am **right now...**


...surfing the waves of the Infinite Unknown.
THAT WHICH WE CALL UNKNOWN-- IS MORE FAMILIAR THAN OUR OWN SELF.
AND YET THAT WHICH WE CLAIM TO KNOW INTIMATELY-- IS UTTERLY IMPENETRABLE!
A voice...old beyond imagining, giddy as a child's...rings in my mind. And there, up ahead...
...lies the source!
WHO ARE YOU?
NO, NO, NO,-- I WAS HERE FIRST! AND SO I GET TO ASK THE FIRST QUESTION!
THEN ASK.
WHO AM I?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE I DO!
THEN WHY ASK ME?
WELL, THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND TO ASK!
This being, I am certain...

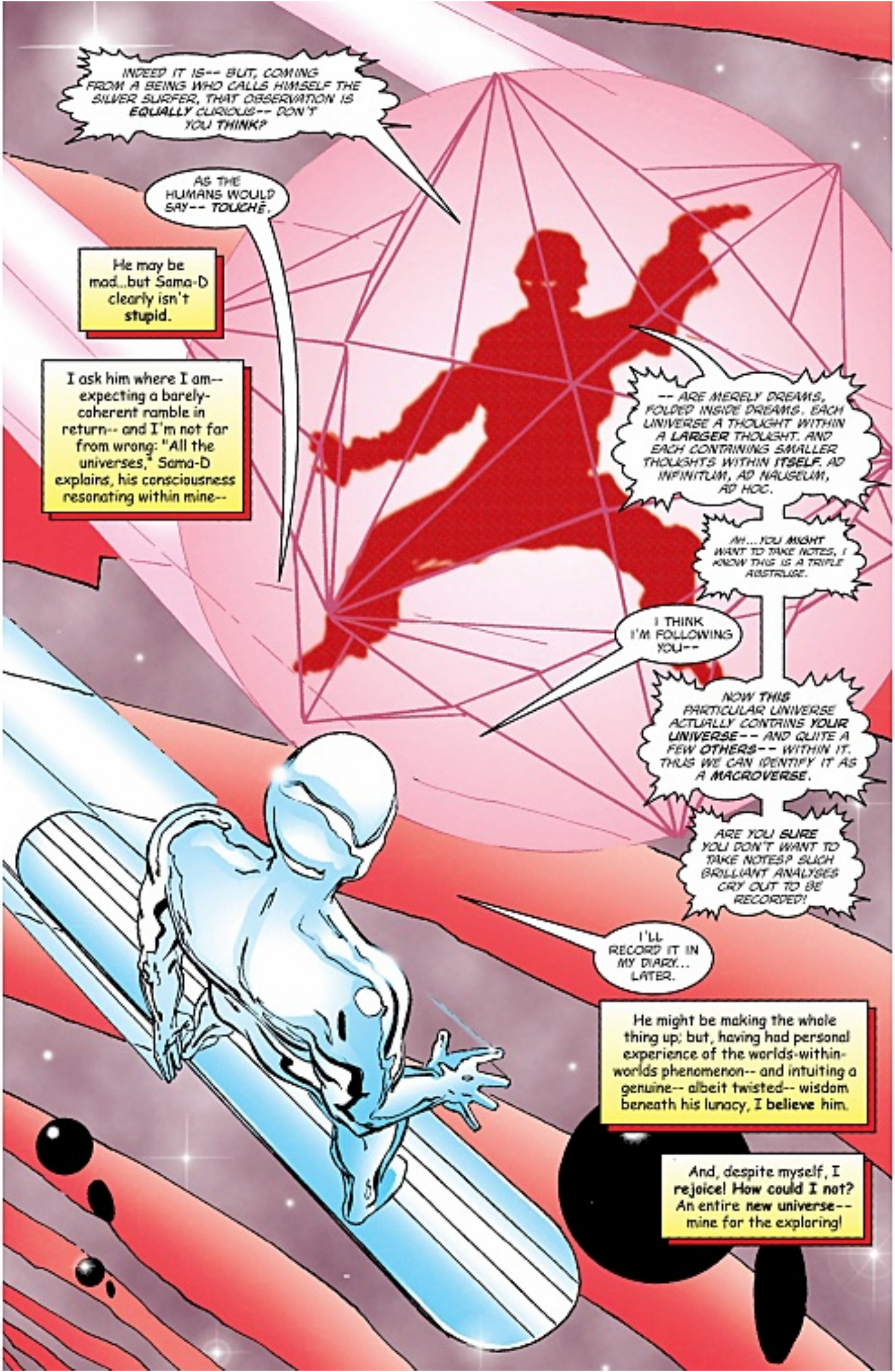

...is Hopelessly Mad.
WHERE AM I?
THE FLOOR'S COLD...SOME KIND OF SMOOTH METAL. THE AIR IS STALE, FILTERED, AND THAT SOUND...
...LIKE SOME POWERFUL ENGINE, VIBRATING THROUGH THE WALLS.
IF ONLY I COULD CLEAR MY HEAD. IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER.
WE WERE ATTACKED BY THAT LUNATIC WHO CALLED HIMSELF THE CORONER AND THEN. AND THEN--
IT WAS LIKE I BECAME PART OF SOMEONE ELSE. A CHARACTER IN A STORY. AND YET IT WAS REAL, I KNOW IT WAS. AND--
BUT WHY DO I HAVE THE IMAGE OF A WOMAN...AT LEAST I THINK IT'S A WOMAN... BURNED INTO MY BRAIN. AN IMAGE I COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY...
...SEEN--?
STEP AWAY FROM THE PORTAL.
HSSSSS SSSSS
WHO--?
THIS UNIT IS CY-PHYRR 4

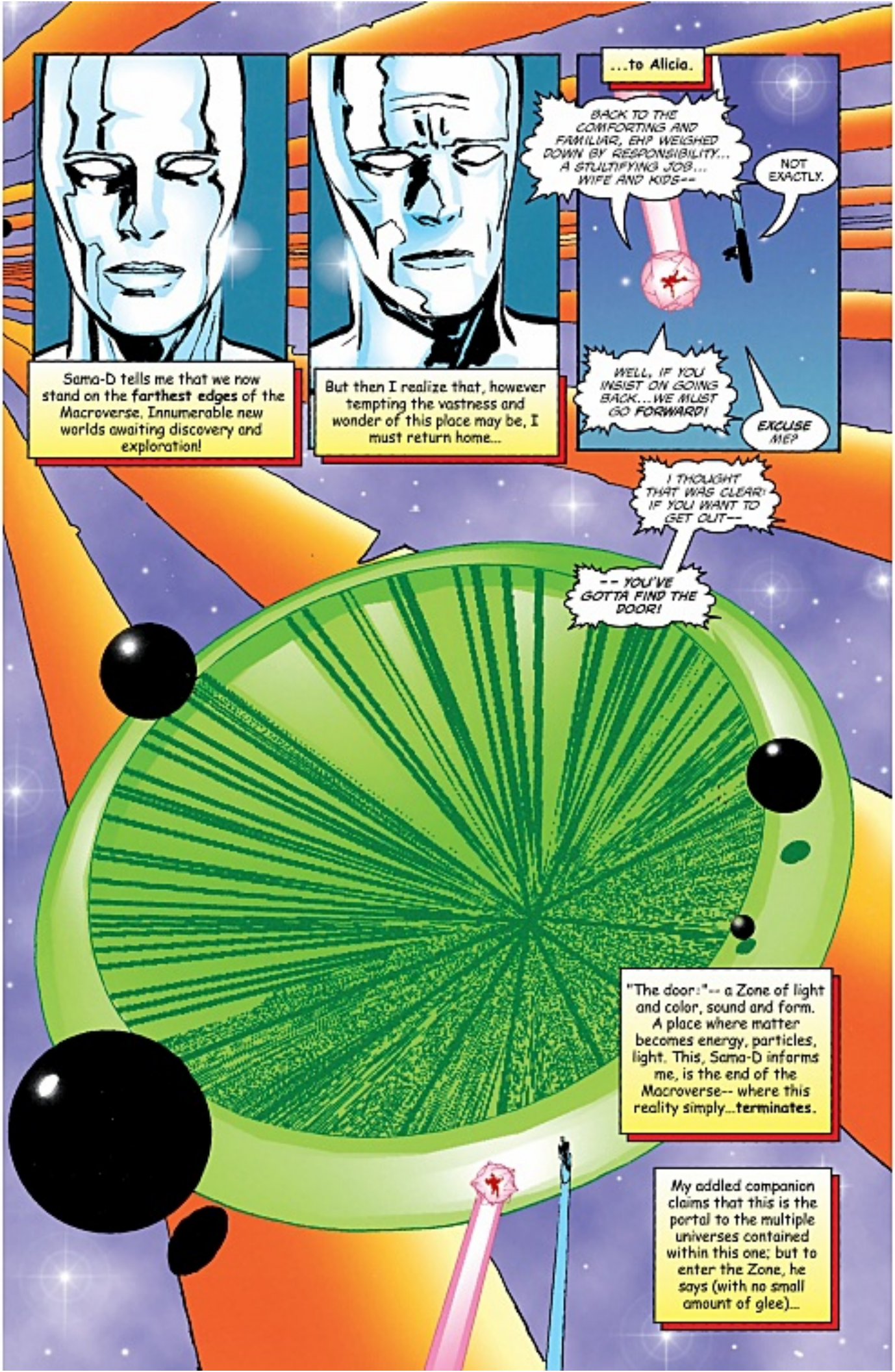

SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS WILL ALLOW THIS UNIT TO MONITOR ITS LIFE-SIGNS.
WHERE AM I?
ANALYSIS: MODERATE STRESSES, BOTH PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL. PRE-EXISTING FAILURE OF OPTIC NERVES.
A LACK OF REQUIRED NUTRIENTS-- WHICH THIS UNIT WILL NOW REPLENISH.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID? WHERE AM I?
WHY AM I BEING HEL--
HE SHOVES THE NEEDLE INTO MY NECK WITH ALL THE DELICACY OF A DRUNKEN SURGEON.
I INSTANTLY FEEL A RUSH OF STRENGTH...OF CLARITY.
WHICH ONLY MAKES ME ANGRIER.
YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE SOME LAB RAT! YOU CAN'T IGNORE ME AS IF I DON'T EXIST! TELL ME WHERE I AM! WHY I'M--
WHY?
SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS IS ABOARD A VESSEL BELONGING TO THE MERGENCE. SHE IS HERE BECAUSE DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE PHASED HER HERE.

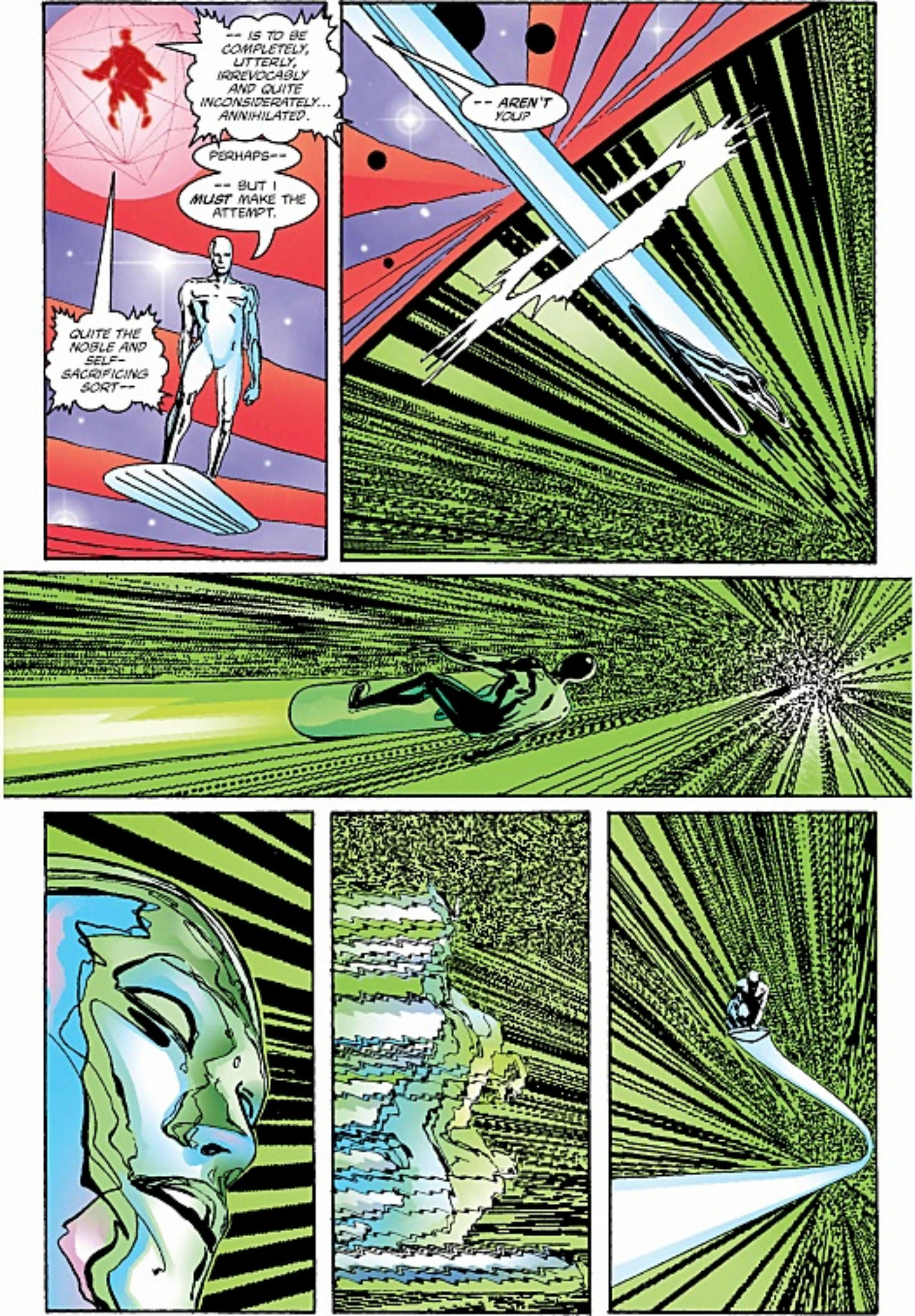

ANSWER ME, BLAST YOU!
HSSSSSSSSSSS
ANSWER ME.
BUT HE'S GONE. AND I'M LEFT ALONE IN A DARKNESS...
...DEEPER THAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.
...WHAT HAPPENS NOW, TENEBRAE?
WHEN DOES THE INVASION FORCE ARRIVE?
WHEN WILL I BE ALLOWED TO CONJOIN WITH THE MERGENCE?
OUR AWARENESS IS SIMULTANEOUSLY AT WORK ON THIRTY PLANES OF REALITY, CORONER.
DO NOT DISTRACT US WITH YOUR INSIGNIFICANT CONCERNS.

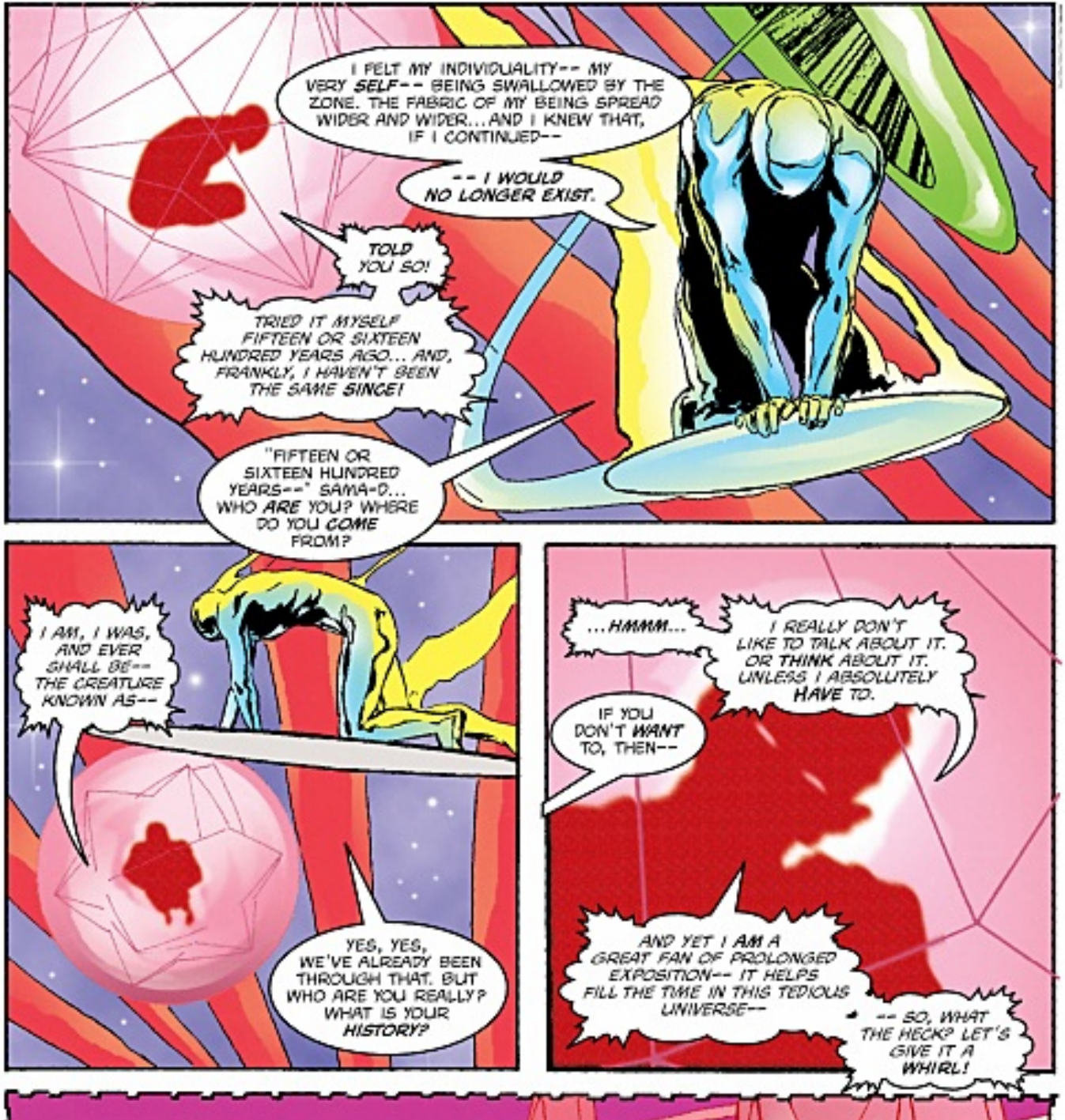

FINE!
YOU JUST SIT THERE LIKE SOME SMUG, SELF-SATISFIED BUDDHA! IF I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR THE MERGENCE--
-- I'LL ASK THEM MYSELF!
I'LL CAST MY THOUGHTS OUT... AS I DID HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO... UNTIL I TOUCH THAT VAST CONSCIOUSNESS!
UNTIL I PIERCE THE DEPTHS OF THAT INFINITE INTELLIGENCE AND--
YOU SEEK TO CONTACT THE MERGENCE?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOO BUSY FOR ME, YOUR EXALTED MAJESTY!
WE ARE THE MERGENCE, AND THE MERGENCE IS US.
TO ADDRESS TENEBRAE IS TO ADDRESS THE ALL-IN-ALL.

YOU ARE NOT THE VOICE I HAVE HEARD, SINGING IN MY SOUL!
NOT THE COSMIC MIND THAT I HAVE LONGED TO COMMUNE WITH-- FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES!
WE ARE THEIR REPRESENTATIVE...AND THEIR VESSEL.
WE ARE THE MERGENCE.
DO NOT SEEK CONTACT IN ANY WAY BUT THROUGH US.
IS THAT CLEAR?
FKKOOOOM!
I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU AGAIN... FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME... MY BRIGHT AND SHINING FRIEND.
He is Mad. And yet I like him.
YOU ARE SOMETHING LITTERLY NEW...TOTALLY UNEXPECTED! AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR YEARS!
Does that make me as insane as he is?
WILL YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME NOW?
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!
I AM, I WAS, AND EVER SHALL BE--
-- THE CREATURE KNOWN AS... SAMA-D!
A CURIOUS NAME--
-- FOR A CURIOUS MAN?

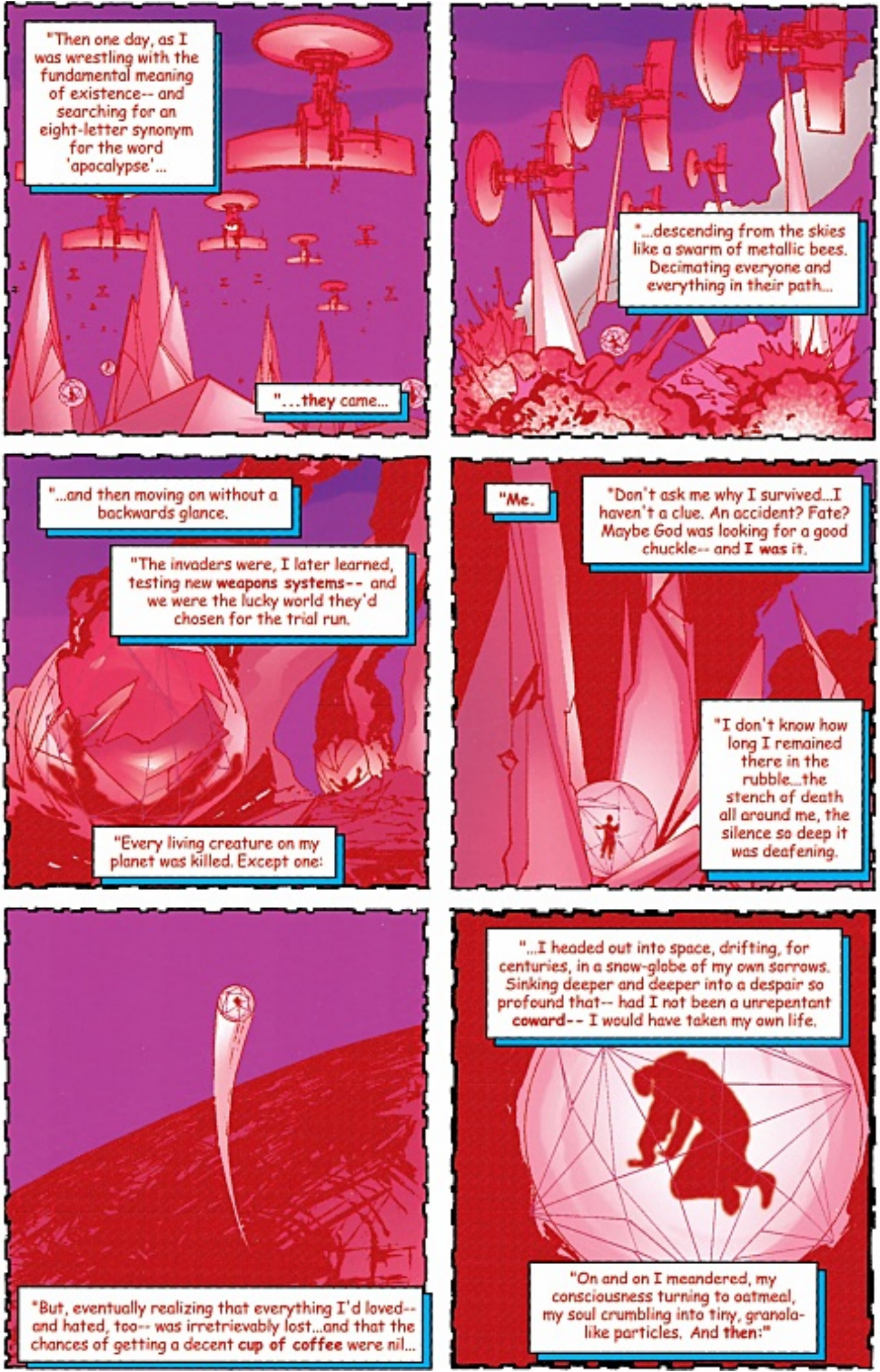

INDEED IT IS-- BUT, COMING FROM A BEING WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE SILVER SURFER, THAT OBSERVATION IS EQUALLY CURIOUS-- DON'T YOU THINK?
AS THE HUMANS WOULD SAY-- TOUCHÉ.
He may be mad...but Sama-D clearly isn't stupid.
I ask him where I am-- expecting a barely-coherent ramble in return-- and I'm not far from wrong: "All the universes," Sama-D explains, his consciousness resonating within mine--
-- ARE MERELY DREAMS, FOLDED INSIDE DREAMS. EACH UNIVERSE A THOUGHT WITHIN A LARGER THOUGHT. AND EACH CONTAINING SMALLER THOUGHTS WITHIN ITSELF. AD INFINITUM, AD NAUSEUM, AD HOC.
AH... YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE NOTES, I KNOW THIS IS A TRIPLE ABSTRUSE.
I THINK I'M FOLLOWING YOU--
NOW THIS PARTICULAR UNIVERSE ACTUALLY CONTAINS YOUR UNIVERSE-- AND QUITE A FEW OTHERS-- WITHIN IT. THUS WE CAN IDENTIFY IT AS A MACROVERSE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE NOTES? SUCH BRILLIANT ANALYSES CRY OUT TO BE RECORDED!
I'LL RECORD IT IN MY DIARY... LATER.
He might be making the whole thing up; but, having had personal experience of the worlds-within-worlds phenomenon-- and intuiting a genuine-- albeit twisted-- wisdom beneath his lunacy, I believe him.
And, despite myself, I rejoice! How could I not? An entire new universe-- mine for the exploring!

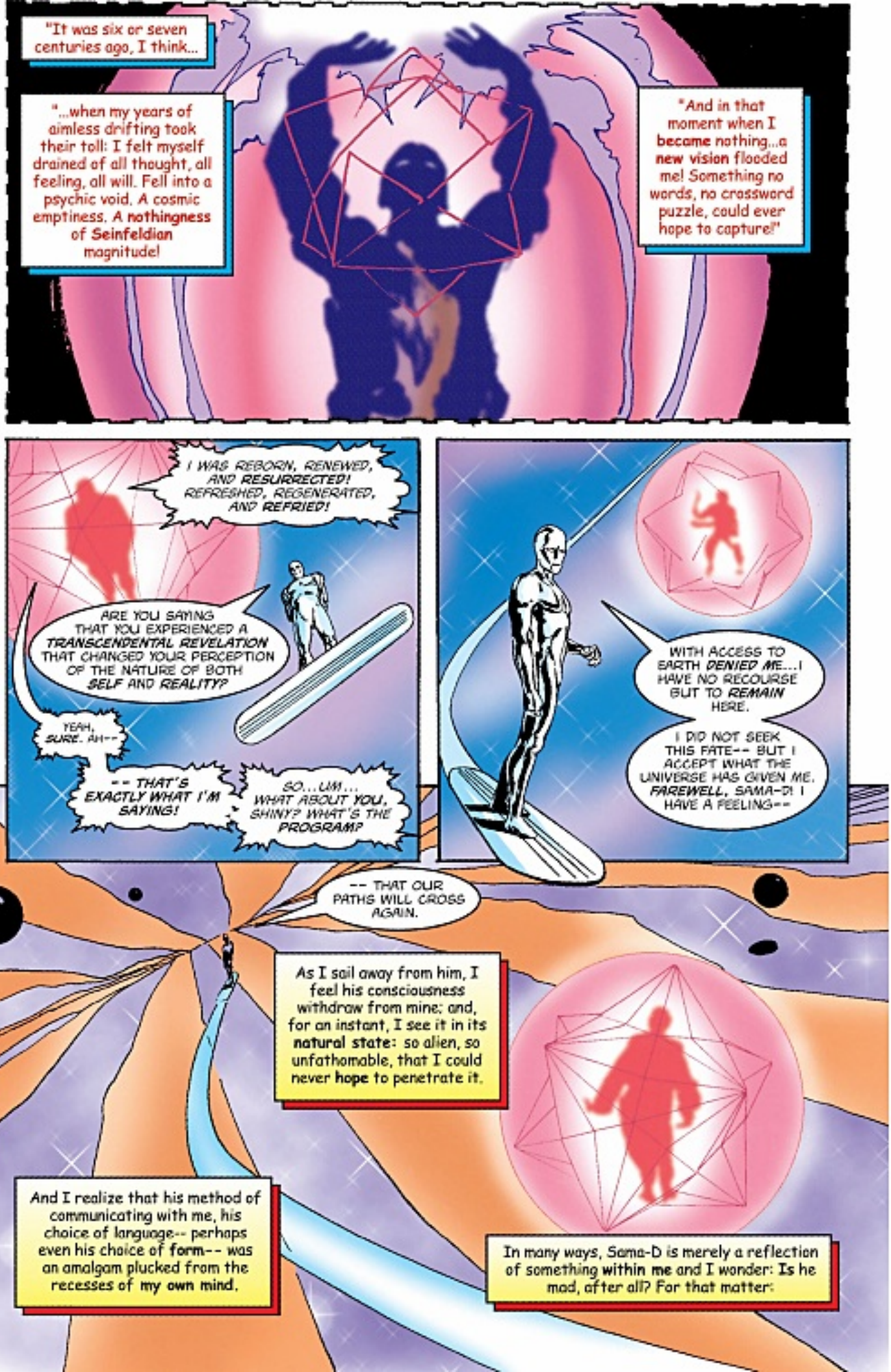

Sama-D tells me that we now stand on the **farthest edges** of the Macroverse. Innumerable new worlds awaiting discovery and exploration!
But then I realize that, however tempting the vastness and wonder of this place may be, I must return home...
...to Alicia.
BACK TO THE COMFORTING AND FAMILIAR, EH? WEIGHED DOWN BY RESPONSIBILITY... A STULTIFYING JOB... WIFE AND KIDS--
NOT EXACTLY.
WELL, IF YOU INSIST ON GOING BACK...WE MUST GO FORWARD!
EXCUSE ME?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS CLEAR! IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT--
-- YOU'VE GOTTA FIND THE DOOR!
"The door:"-- a Zone of light and color, sound and form. A place where matter becomes energy, particles, light. This, Sama-D informs me, is the end of the Macroverse-- where this reality simply...**terminates.**
My addled companion claims that this is the portal to the multiple universes contained within this one; but to enter the Zone, he says (with no small amount of glee)...

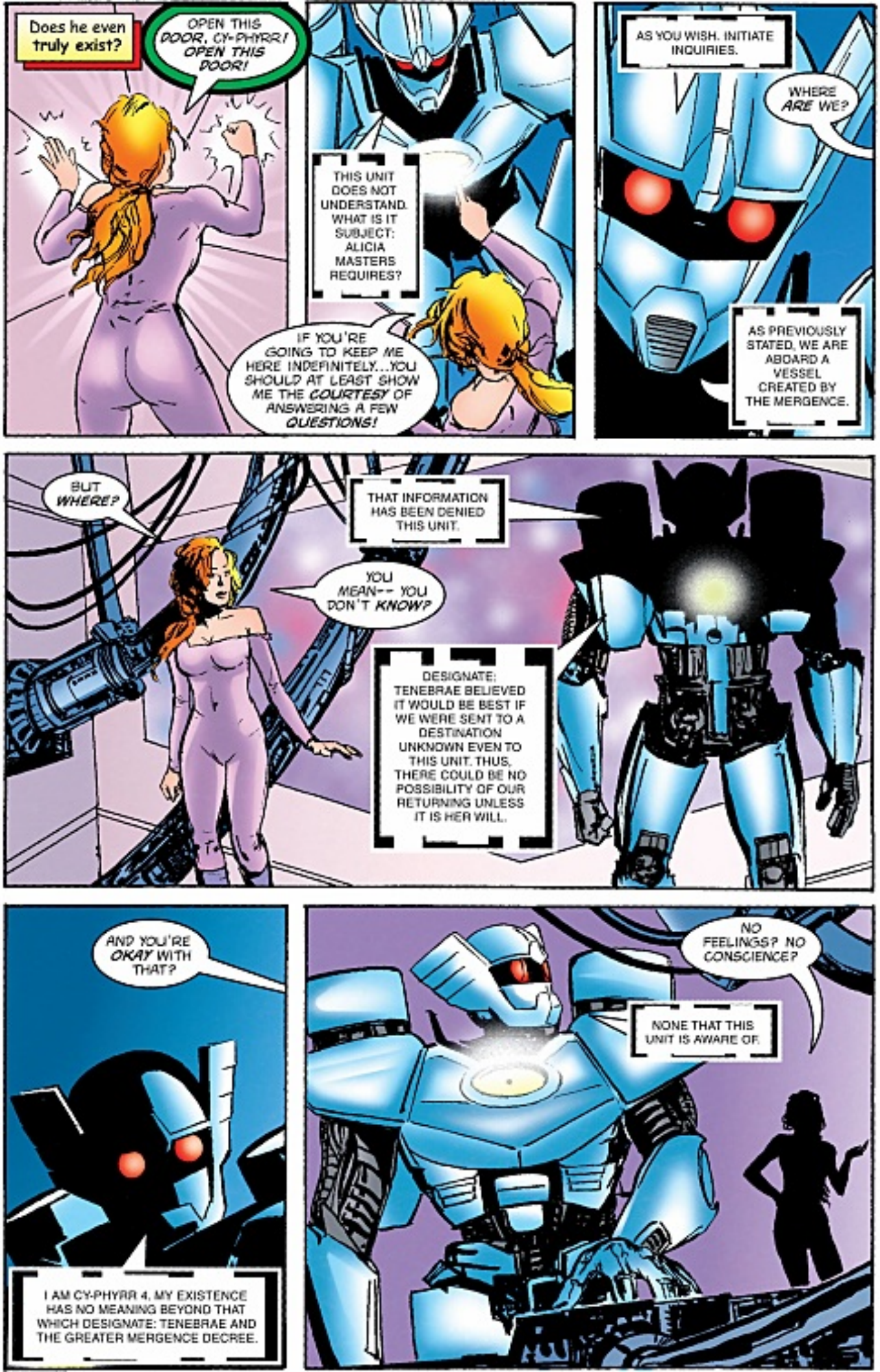

-- IS TO BE COMPLETELY, UTTERLY, IRREVOCABLY AND QUITE INCONSIDERATELY... ANNIHILATED.
PERHAPS--
-- BUT I MUST MAKE THE ATTEMPT.
QUITE THE NOBLE AND SELF-SACRIFICING SORT--
-- AREN'T YOU?

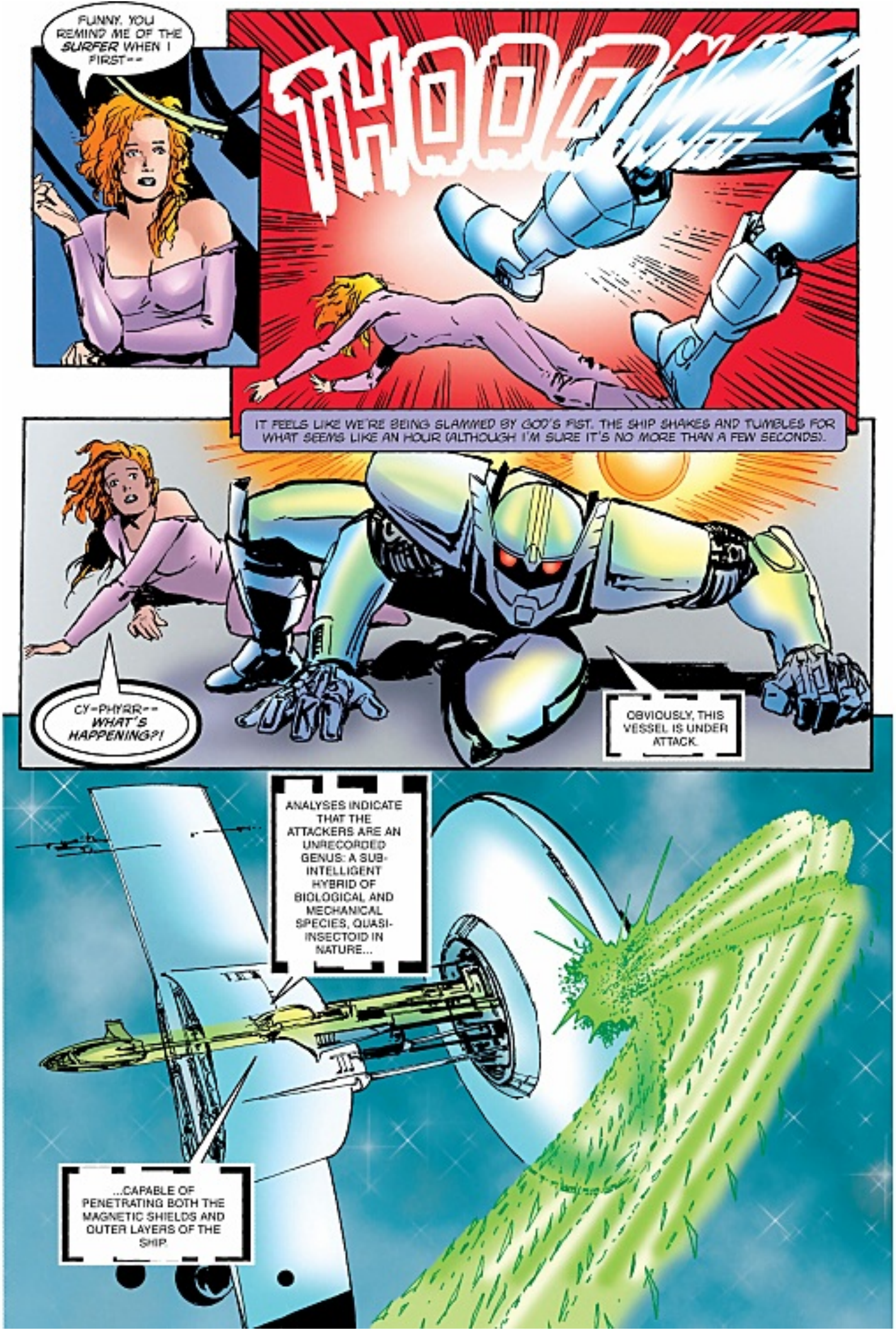

I FELT MY INDIVIDUALITY-- MY VERY SELF-- BEING SWALLOWED BY THE ZONE. THE FABRIC OF MY BEING SPREAD WIDER AND WIDER... AND I KNEW THAT, IF I CONTINUED--
-- I WOULD NO LONGER EXIST.
TOLD YOU SO!
TRIED IT MYSELF FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO... AND, FRANKLY, I HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE!
"FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN HUNDRED YEARS--" SAMA-D... WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
I AM, I WAS, AND EVER SHALL BE-- THE CREATURE KNOWN AS--
YES, YES, WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THAT. BUT WHO ARE YOU REALLY? WHAT IS YOUR HISTORY?
...HMMM...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT. OR THINK ABOUT IT. UNLESS I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THEN--
AND YET I AM A GREAT FAN OF PROLONGED EXPOSITION-- IT HELPS FILL THE TIME IN THIS TEDIOUS UNIVERSE--
-- SO, WHAT THE HECK? LET'S GIVE IT A WHIRL!

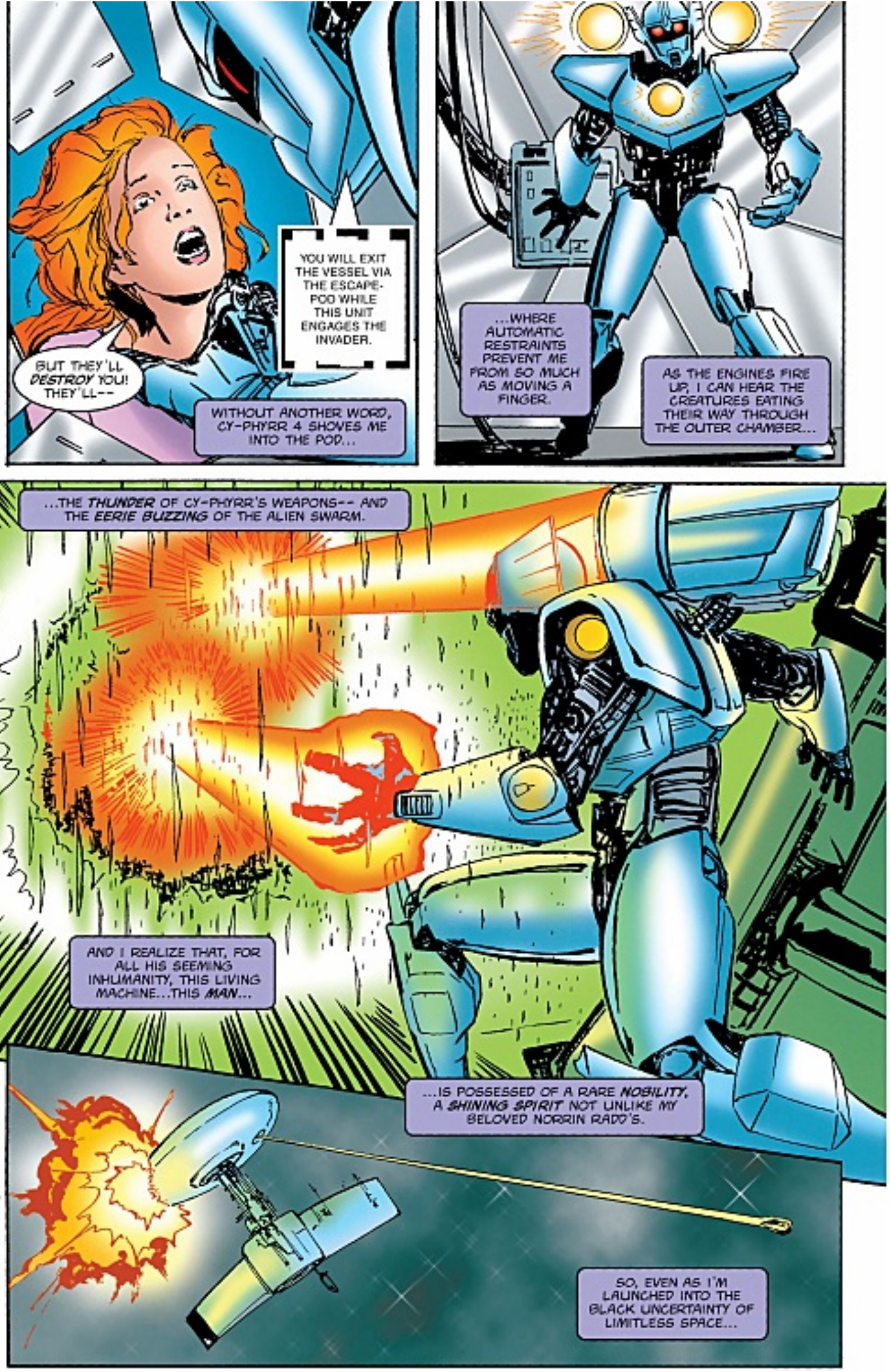
"Once upon a time...or possibly twice, I lived on a breathtakingly idyllic world...the name of which escapes me.
"We were a happy, contented people: passionate about the quest for knowledge, the study of intergalactic philosophy. We passed the years seeking truth, ultimate answers...
"...and doing crossword puzzles. God, we loved doing crossword puzzles!"


"Then one day, as I was wrestling with the fundamental meaning of existence-- and searching for an eight-letter synonym for the word 'apocalypse'...
"...they came...
"...descending from the skies like a swarm of metallic bees. Decimating everyone and everything in their path...
"...and then moving on without a backwards glance.
"The invaders were, I later learned, testing new **weapons systems--** and we were the lucky world they'd chosen for the trial run.
"Every living creature on my planet was killed. Except one:
"Me.
"Don't ask me why I survived...I haven't a clue. An accident? Fate? Maybe God was looking for a good chuckle-- and I **was** it.
"I don't know how long I remained there in the rubble...the stench of death all around me, the silence so deep it was deafening.
"But, eventually realizing that everything I'd loved-- and hated, too-- was irretrievably lost...and that the chances of getting a decent **cup of coffee** were nil...
"...I headed out into space, drifting, for centuries, in a snow-globe of my own sorrows. Sinking deeper and deeper into a despair so profound that-- had I not been a unrepentant **coward--** I would have taken my own life.
"On and on I meandered, my consciousness turning to oatmeal, my soul crumbling into tiny, granola-like particles. And **then:**"

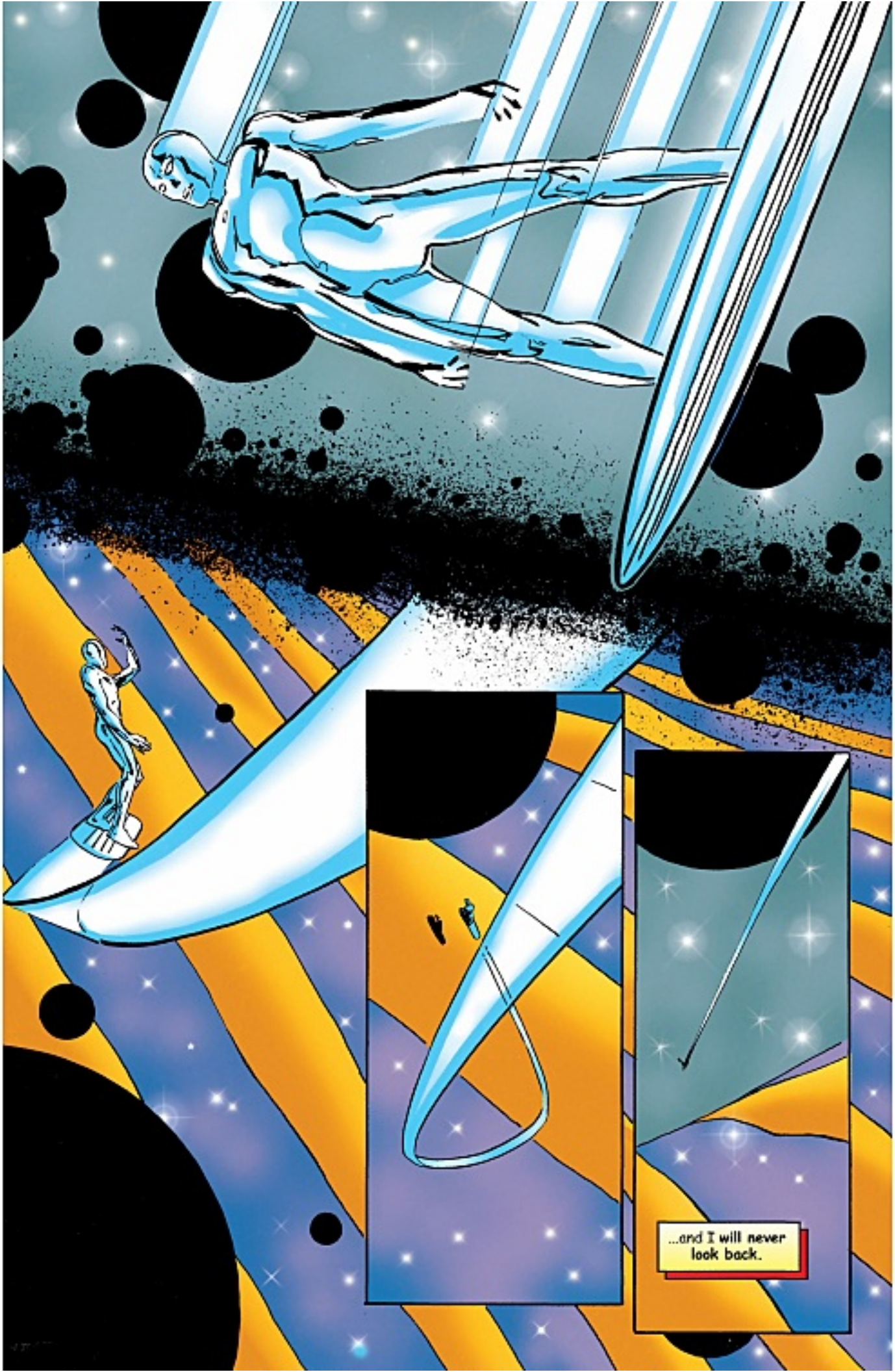

"It was six or seven centuries ago, I think...
"...when my years of aimless drifting took their toll: I felt myself drained of all thought, all feeling, all will. Fell into a psychic void. A cosmic emptiness. A nothingness of Seinfeldian magnitude!
"And in that moment when I became nothing...a new vision flooded me! Something no words, no crossword puzzle, could ever hope to capture!"
I WAS REBORN, RENEWED, AND RESURRECTED! REFRESHED, REGENERATED, AND REFRIED!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU EXPERIENCED A TRANSCENDENTAL REVELATION THAT CHANGED YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE NATURE OF BOTH SELF AND REALITY?
YEAH, SURE. AH--
-- THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING!
SO...UM... WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHINY? WHAT'S THE PROGRAM?
WITH ACCESS TO EARTH DENIED ME...I HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO REMAIN HERE.
I DID NOT SEEK THIS FATE-- BUT I ACCEPT WHAT THE UNIVERSE HAS GIVEN ME. FAREWELL, SAMA-D! I HAVE A FEELING--
-- THAT OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN.
As I sail away from him, I feel his consciousness withdraw from mine: and, for an instant, I see it in its natural state: so alien, so unfathomable, that I could never hope to penetrate it.
And I realize that his method of communicating with me, his choice of language-- perhaps even his choice of form-- was an amalgam plucked from the recesses of my own mind.
In many ways, Sama-D is merely a reflection of something within me and I wonder: Is he mad, after all? For that matter:


Does he even truly exist?
OPEN THIS DOOR, CY-PHYRR! OPEN THIS DOOR!
THIS UNIT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS IT SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS REQUIRES?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ME HERE INDEFINITELY...YOU SHOULD AT LEAST SHOW ME THE COURTESY OF ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS!
AS YOU WISH. INITIATE INQUIRIES.
WHERE ARE WE?
AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, WE ARE ABOARD A VESSEL CREATED BY THE MERGENCE.
BUT WHERE?
THAT INFORMATION HAS BEEN DENIED THIS UNIT.
YOU MEAN-- YOU DON'T KNOW?
DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE WERE SENT TO A DESTINATION UNKNOWN EVEN TO THIS UNIT. THUS, THERE COULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF OUR RETURNING UNLESS IT IS HER WILL.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
I AM CY-PHYRR 4. MY EXISTENCE HAS NO MEANING BEYOND THAT WHICH DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE AND THE GREATER MERGENCE DECREE.
NO FEELINGS? NO CONSCIENCE?
NONE THAT THIS UNIT IS AWARE OF.

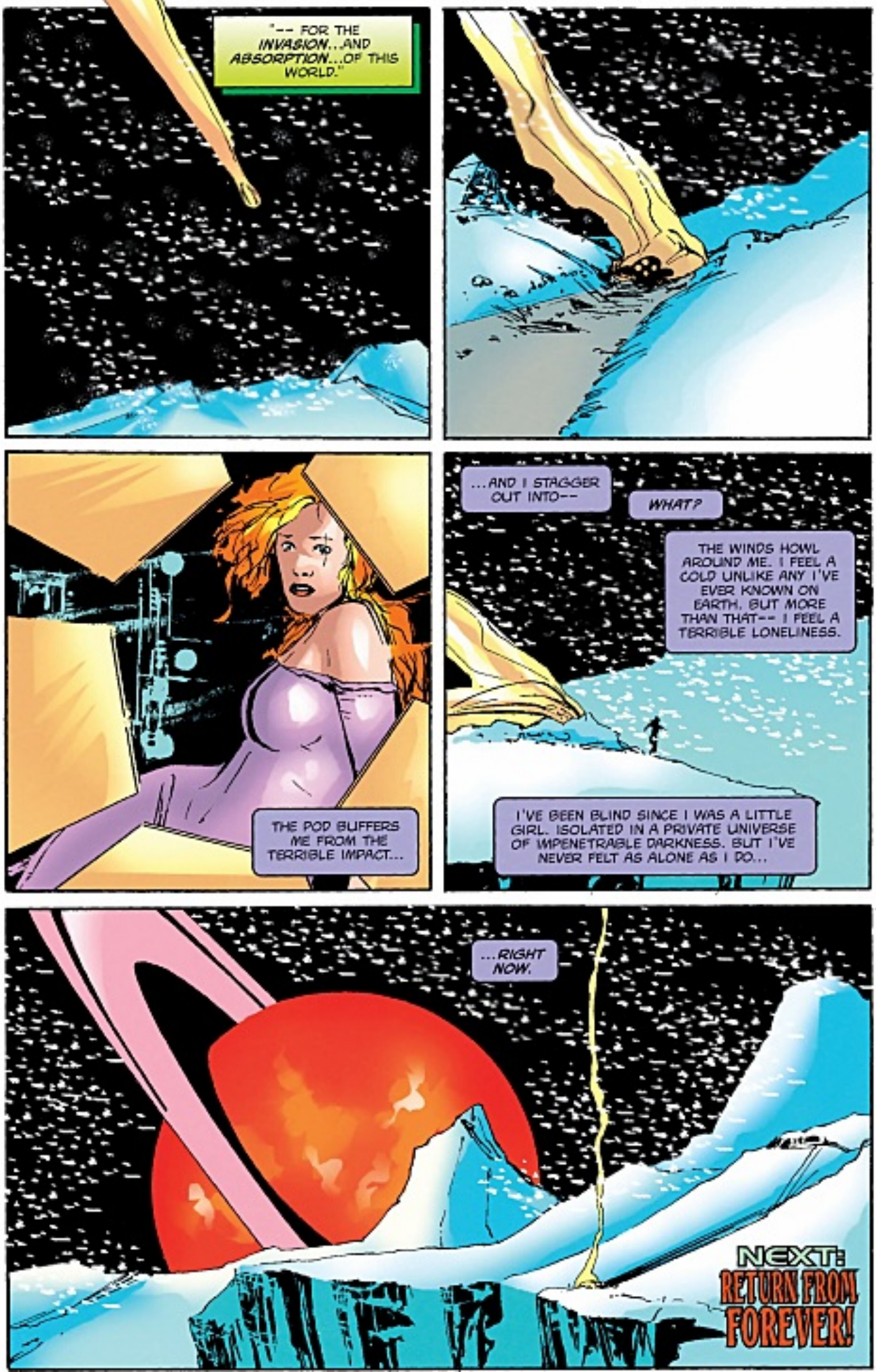

FUNNY, YOU REMIND ME OF THE SURFER WHEN I FIRST--
THOOM
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BEING SLAMMED BY GOD'S FIST. THE SHIP SHAKES AND TUMBLES FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN HOUR (ALTHOUGH I'M SURE IT'S NO MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS).
CY-PHYRR--WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
OBVIOUSLY, THIS VESSEL IS UNDER ATTACK.
ANALYSES INDICATE THAT THE ATTACKERS ARE AN UNRECORDED GENUS: A SUB-INTELLIGENT HYBRID OF BIOLOGICAL AND MECHANICAL SPECIES, QUASI-INSECTOID IN NATURE...
...CAPABLE OF PENETRATING BOTH THE MAGNETIC SHIELDS AND OUTER LAYERS OF THE SHIP.


BUT THEY'LL DESTROY YOU! THEY'LL--
YOU WILL EXIT THE VESSEL VIA THE ESCAPE-POD WHILE THIS UNIT ENGAGES THE INVADER.
WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, CY-PHYRR 4 SHOVES ME INTO THE POD...
...WHERE AUTOMATIC RESTRAINTS PREVENT ME FROM SO MUCH AS MOVING A FINGER.
AS THE ENGINES FIRE UP, I CAN HEAR THE CREATURES EATING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE OUTER CHAMBER...
...THE THUNDER OF CY-PHYRR'S WEAPONS-- AND THE EERIE BUZZING OF THE ALIEN SWARM.
AND I REALIZE THAT, FOR ALL HIS SEEMING INHUMANITY, THIS LIVING MACHINE...THIS MAN...
...IS POSSESSED OF A RARE NOBILITY, A SHINING SPIRIT NOT UNLIKE MY BELOVED NORRIN RADD'S.
SO, EVEN AS I'M LAUNCHED INTO THE BLACK UNCERTAINTY OF LIMITLESS SPACE...

...MY HEART IS FILLED WITH *HOPE*.
Entire **star systems** are born before my eyes...matter and energy pushing their way up-- out of the **cosmic womb!**
I bathe in the radiance of these primal forces! let it seep through my very pores..and fill my soul!
This is my **heart's fulfillment...ecstasy** beyond expression!
This is what I live for! This is **why the Silver Surfer exists!**
I do not know what wonders and terrors await me as I move deeper into the macroverse; but I know that I will embrace all experiences equally; learn from them, be ennobled and **exalted** by them!
I will move forward, surfing the unimaginable depths of this unknown ocean...


...and I will never look back.

...DO YOU SEE? DESPITE OUR APPARENT FAILURE WITH THE ZENN-LA CONSTRUCT-- WE LEARNED, DID WE NOT, WHO THE SURFER TRULY IS?
PEACE AND HAPPINESS, LOVE AND CONTENTMENT: THESE WERE NOT THE THINGS HE DESIRED...DESPITE HIS VOCIFEROUSLY-STATED LONGING FOR SUCH THINGS.
NO. ZENN-LA WAS TORTURE TO HIM. DEATH, WHAT HE WANTED...WHAT HE REQUIRED...WAS THE ENDLESS UNIVERSE.
AND WE HAVE GIVEN HIM A UNIVERSE WITHOUT LIMIT TO EXPLORE. SOON HE WILL FORGET ALICIA MASTERS, FORGET THE EARTH...FORGET THE COSMOS THAT HAS BEEN HIS HOME.
TO PUT IT IN THE PARLANCE OF YOUR PEOPLE, CORONER: WE HAVE GIVEN HIM THE APPLE--
-- AND HE HAS EATEN OF ITS FRUIT.
DO YOU SEE, ALL-IN-ALL, WHAT IS IN OUR MIND?
THE MERGENCE SEES.
IS THAT THEM, TENEBRAE? IS THAT THE MERGENCE?
CALL IT A HOLOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF THAT WHICH THE MERGENCE IS. NOW BE SILENT, CORONER.
WE MUST MAKE OUR PREPARATIONS--


"-- FOR THE INVASION...AND ABSORPTION...OF THIS WORLD."
THE POD BUFFERS ME FROM THE TERRIBLE IMPACT...
...AND I STAGGER OUT INTO--
WHAT?
THE WINDS HOWL AROUND ME. I FEEL A COLD UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER KNOWN ON EARTH. BUT MORE THAN THAT-- I FEEL A TERRIBLE LONELINESS.
I'VE BEEN BLIND SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. ISOLATED IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSE OF IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS. BUT I'VE NEVER FELT AS ALONE AS I DO...
...RIGHT NOW.
NEXT: RETURN FROM FOREVER!

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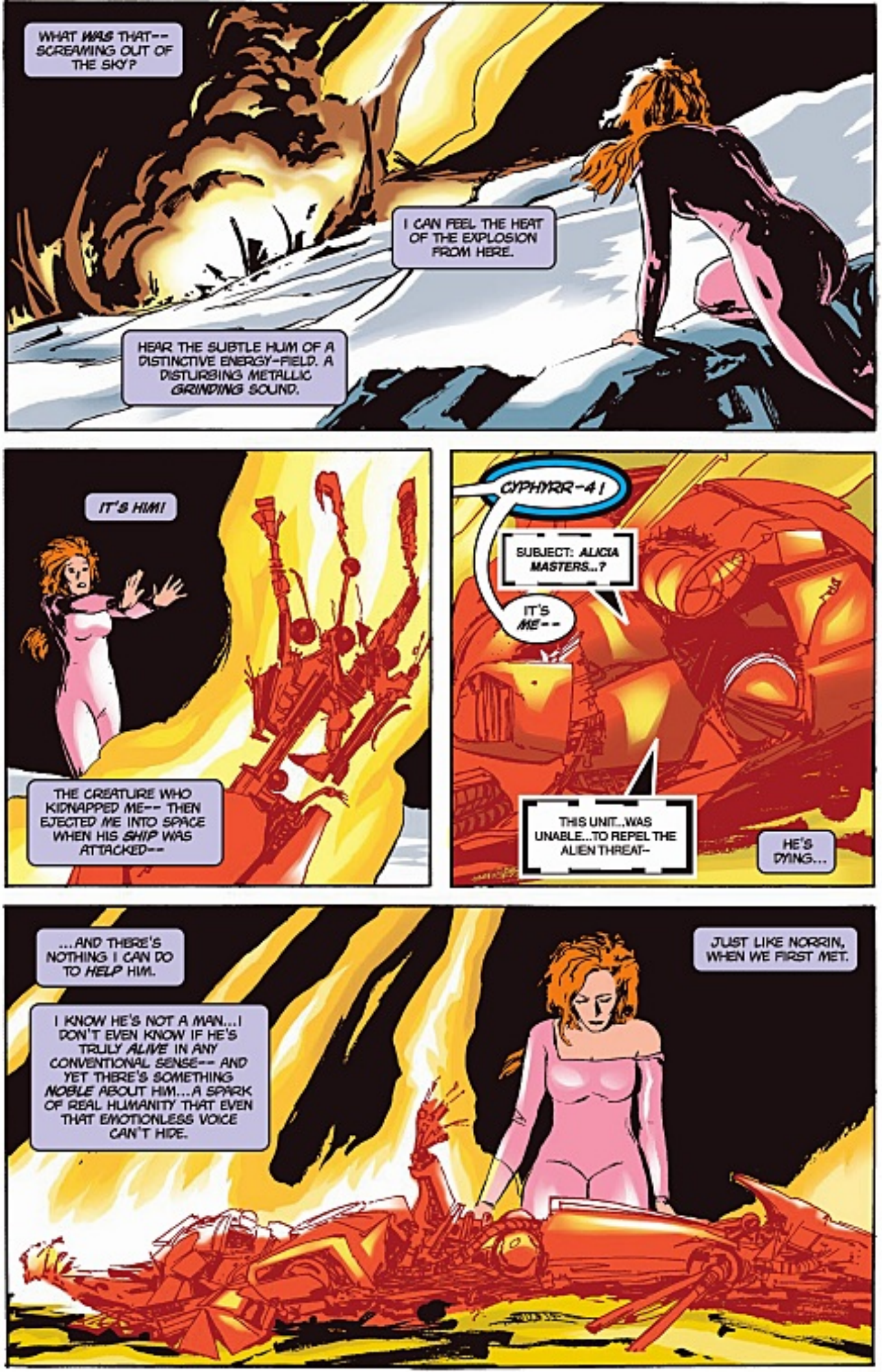
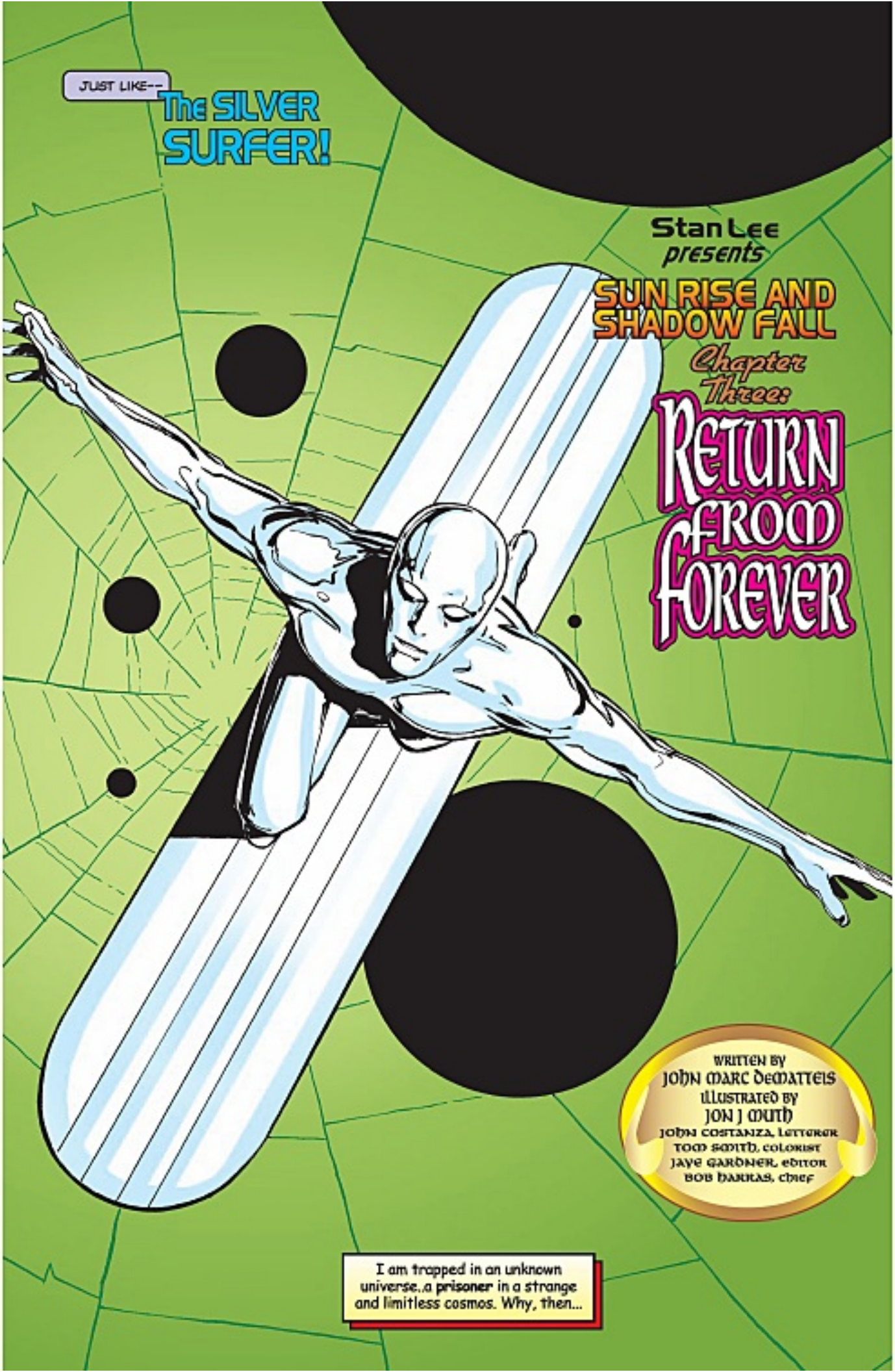
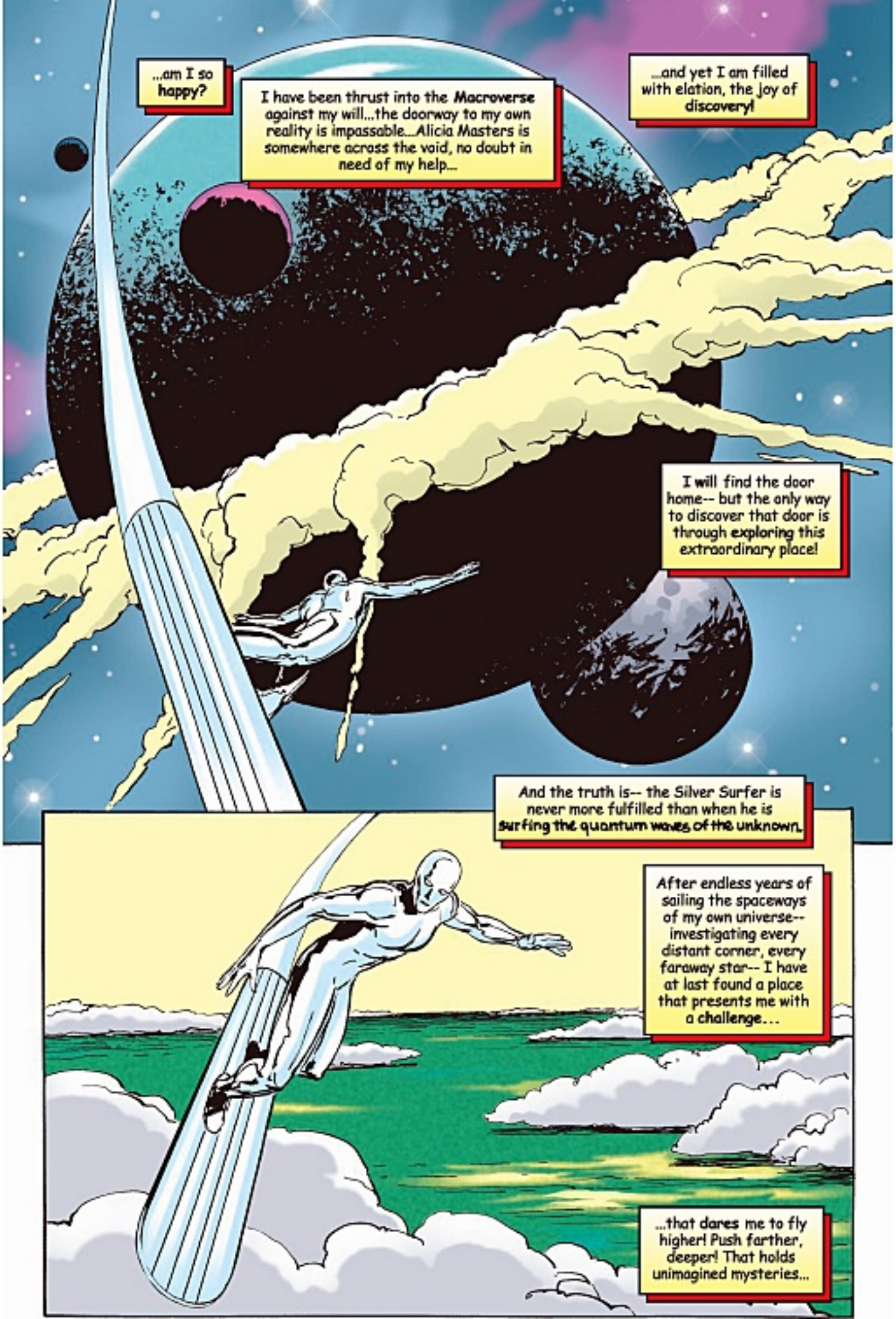
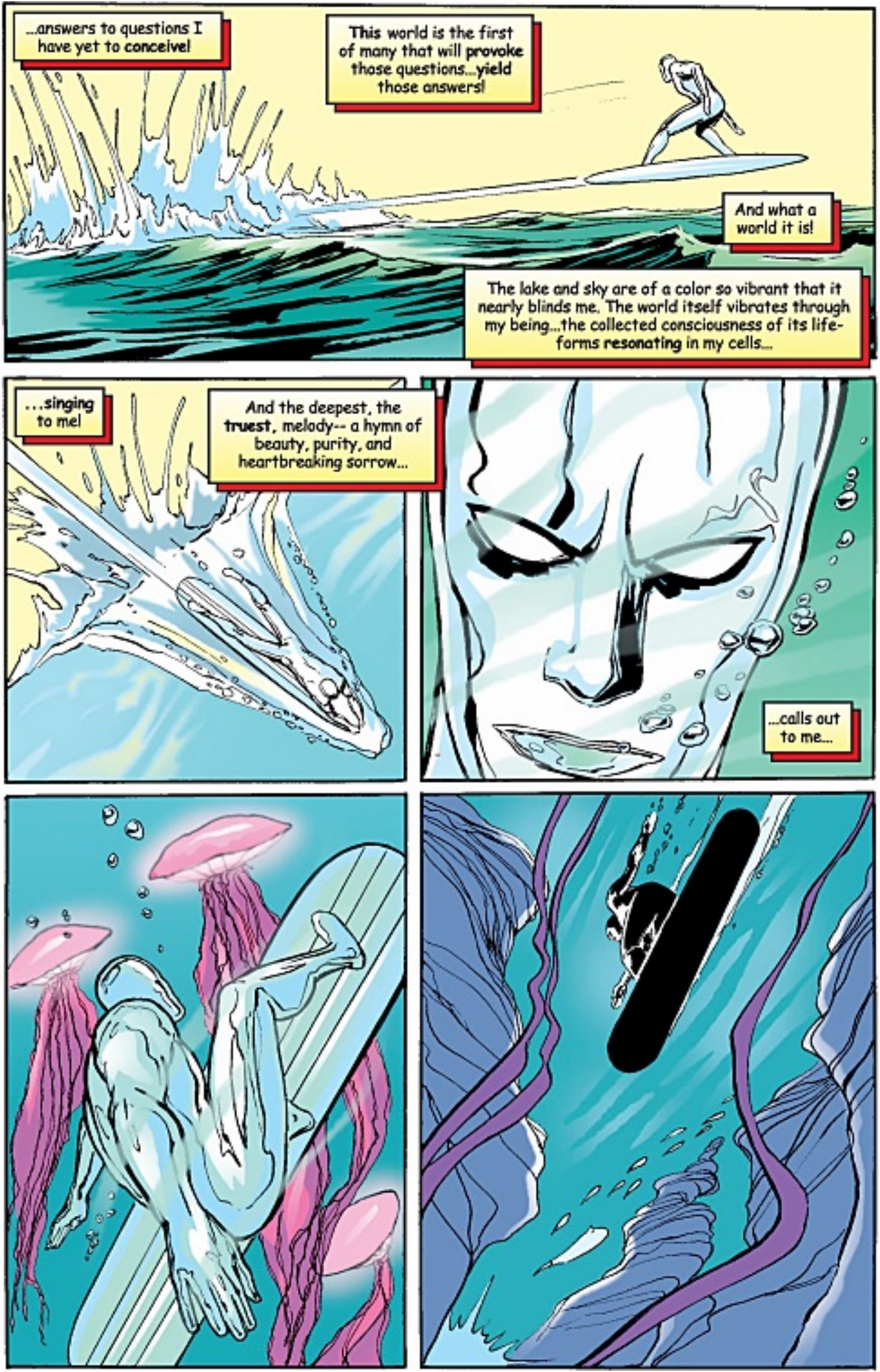
TO FACE A MENACE FROM THE DEPTHS!
DeMATTEIS
MUTH
MUTH

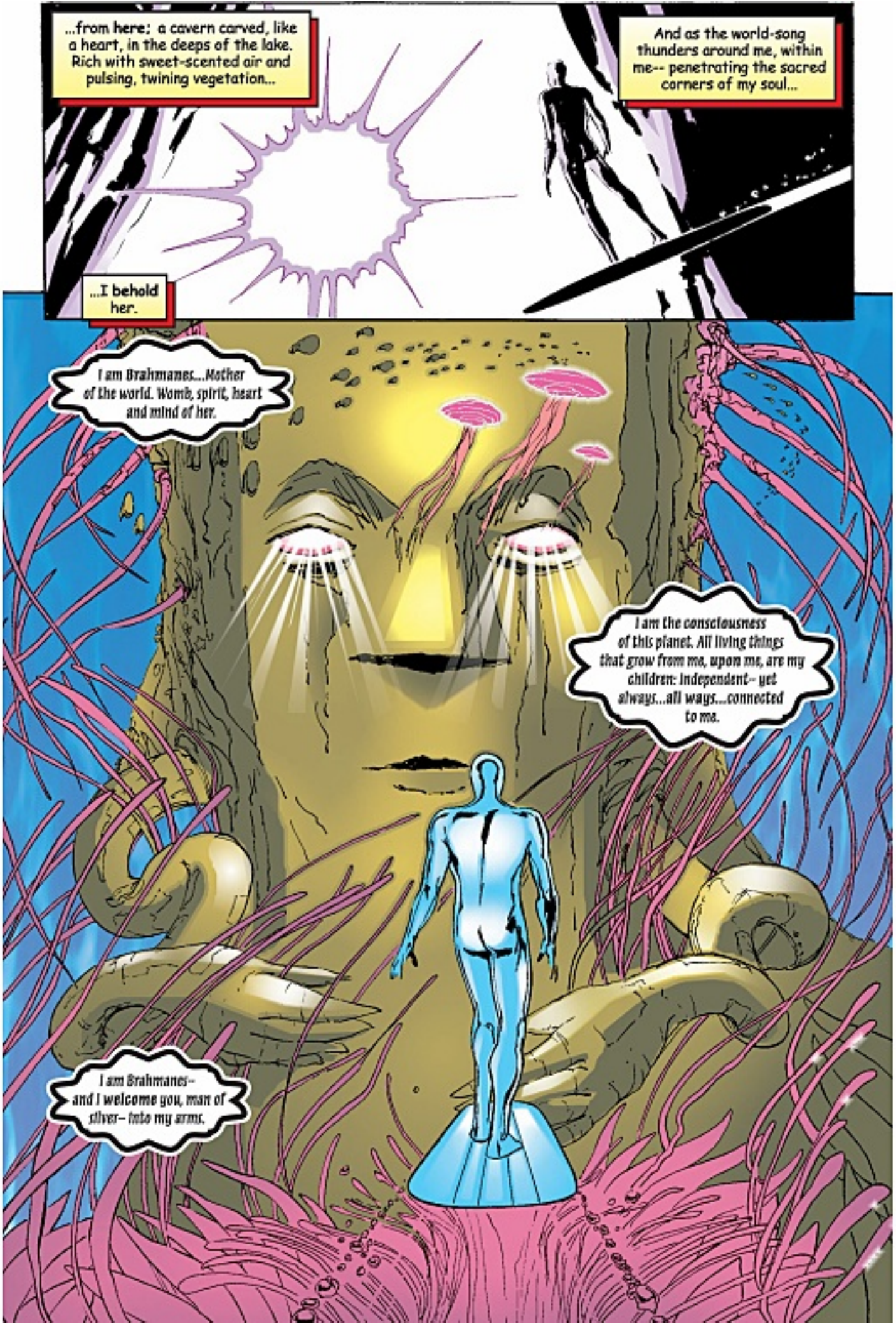
HAVING THE *PUPPET MASTER* AS A STEP-FATHER AND *THE FANTASTIC FOUR* AS MY CLOSEST FRIENDS, I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN A STRANGER TO BIZARRE AND THREATENING SITUATIONS.
BUT SINCE NORRIN RADD-- *THE SILVER SURFER*-- CAME BACK INTO MY LIFE, I'VE FOUND MYSELF THRUST ACROSS TIME AND SPACE...FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE LORD OF HELL...SPUN INTO A PARALLEL UNIVERSE...AND NOW--
I WISH I KNEW *WHERE* I WAS!
THE WINDS HOWL AROUND ME. I FEEL A COLD UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER KNOWN ON EARTH. BUT *MORE* THAN THAT-- I FEEL A TERRIBLE LONELINESS.
SKRREEEEE
I'VE BEEN BLIND SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. ISOLATED IN A PRIVATE UNIVERSE OF IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS. BUT I'VE NEVER FELT AS ALONE AS I DO...
WHOOOOH!
...RIGHT NOW.

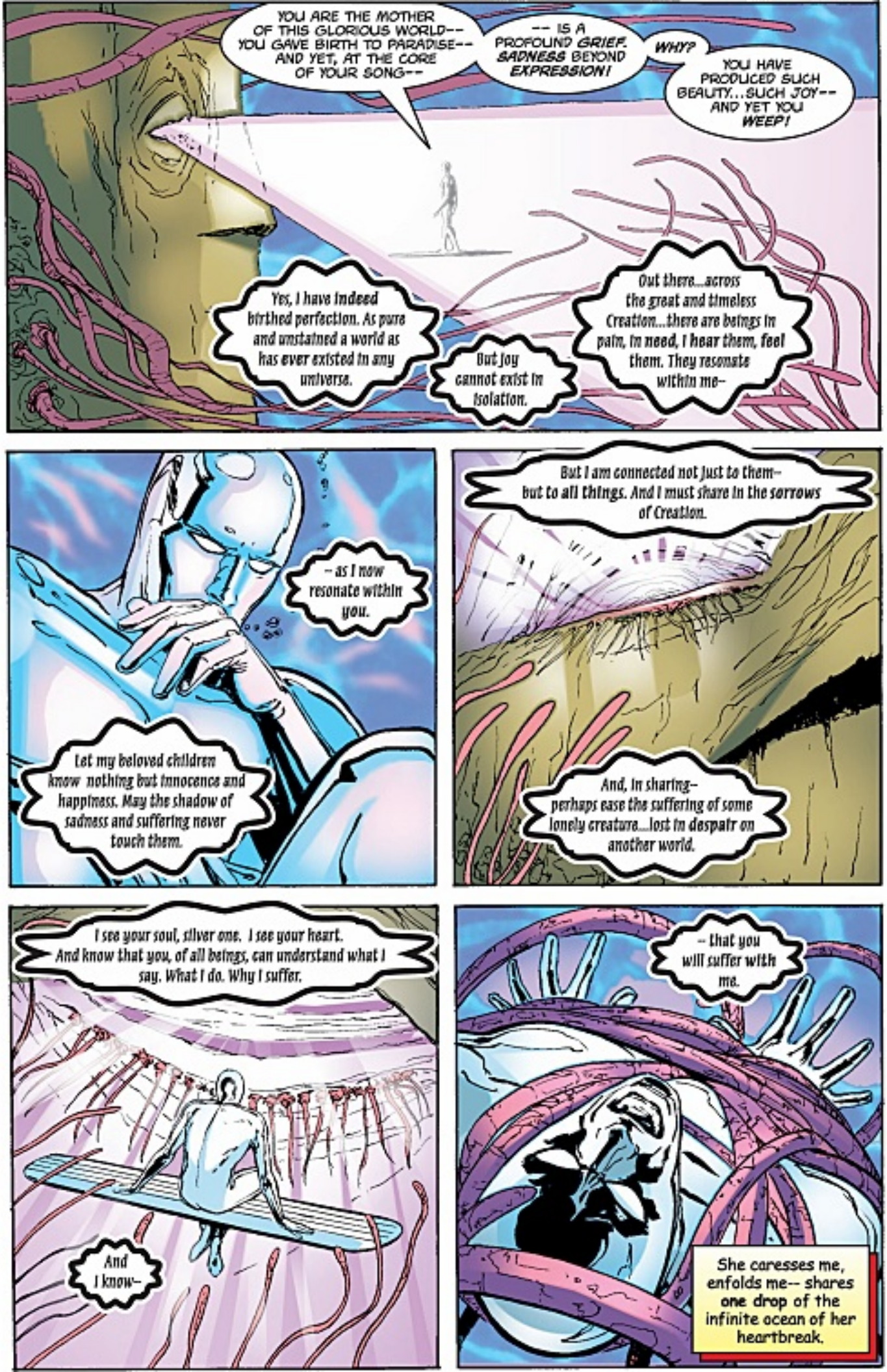

WHAT *WAS* THAT-- SCREAMING OUT OF THE SKY?
I CAN FEEL THE HEAT OF THE EXPLOSION FROM HERE.
HEAR THE SUBTLE HUM OF A DISTINCTIVE ENERGY-FIELD. A DISTURBING METALLIC *GRINDING* SOUND.
IT'S HIM!
THE CREATURE WHO KIDNAPPED ME-- THEN EJECTED *ME* INTO SPACE WHEN HIS *SHIP* WAS ATTACKED--
CYPHYRR-4!
SUBJECT: *ALICIA MASTERS...?*
IT'S *ME*--
THIS UNIT...WAS UNABLE...TO REPEL THE ALIEN THREAT-
HE'S DYING...
...AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO *HELP* HIM.
I KNOW HE'S NOT A MAN...I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S TRULY *ALIVE* IN ANY CONVENTIONAL SENSE-- AND YET THERE'S SOMETHING *NOBLE* ABOUT HIM...A SPARK OF REAL HUMANITY THAT EVEN THAT EMOTIONLESS VOICE CAN'T HIDE.
JUST LIKE NORRIN, WHEN WE FIRST MET.

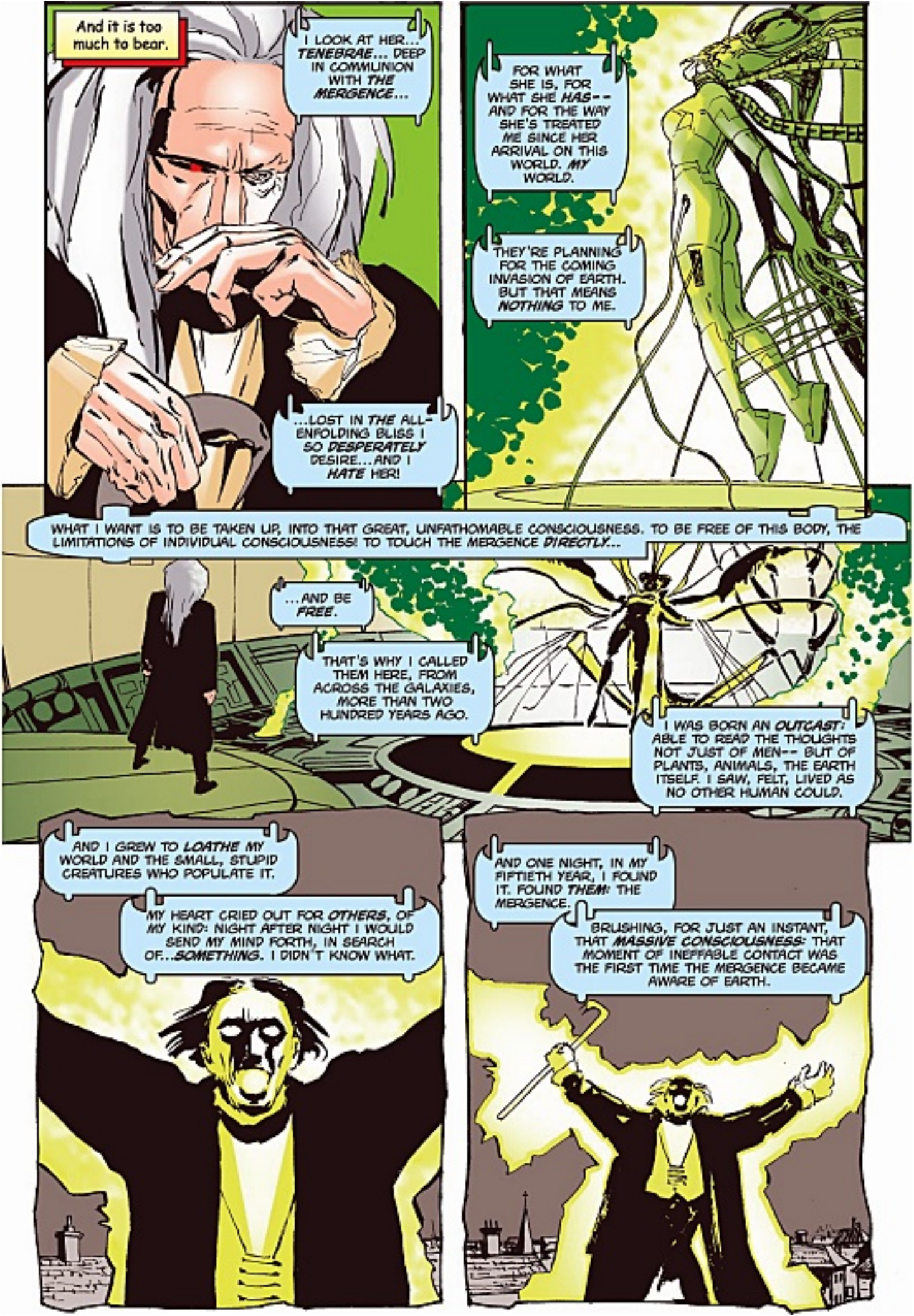

JUST LIKE--
The SILVER SURFER!
Stan Lee presents
SUN RISE AND SHADOW FALL
Chapter Three:
RETURN FROM FOREVER
WRITTEN BY
JOHN MARC DeMATTEIS
ILLUSTRATED BY
JON J MUTH
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
TOM SMITH, COLORIST
JAYE GARDNER, EDITOR
BOB HARRAS, CHIEF
I am trapped in an unknown universe...a prisoner in a strange and limitless cosmos. Why, then...

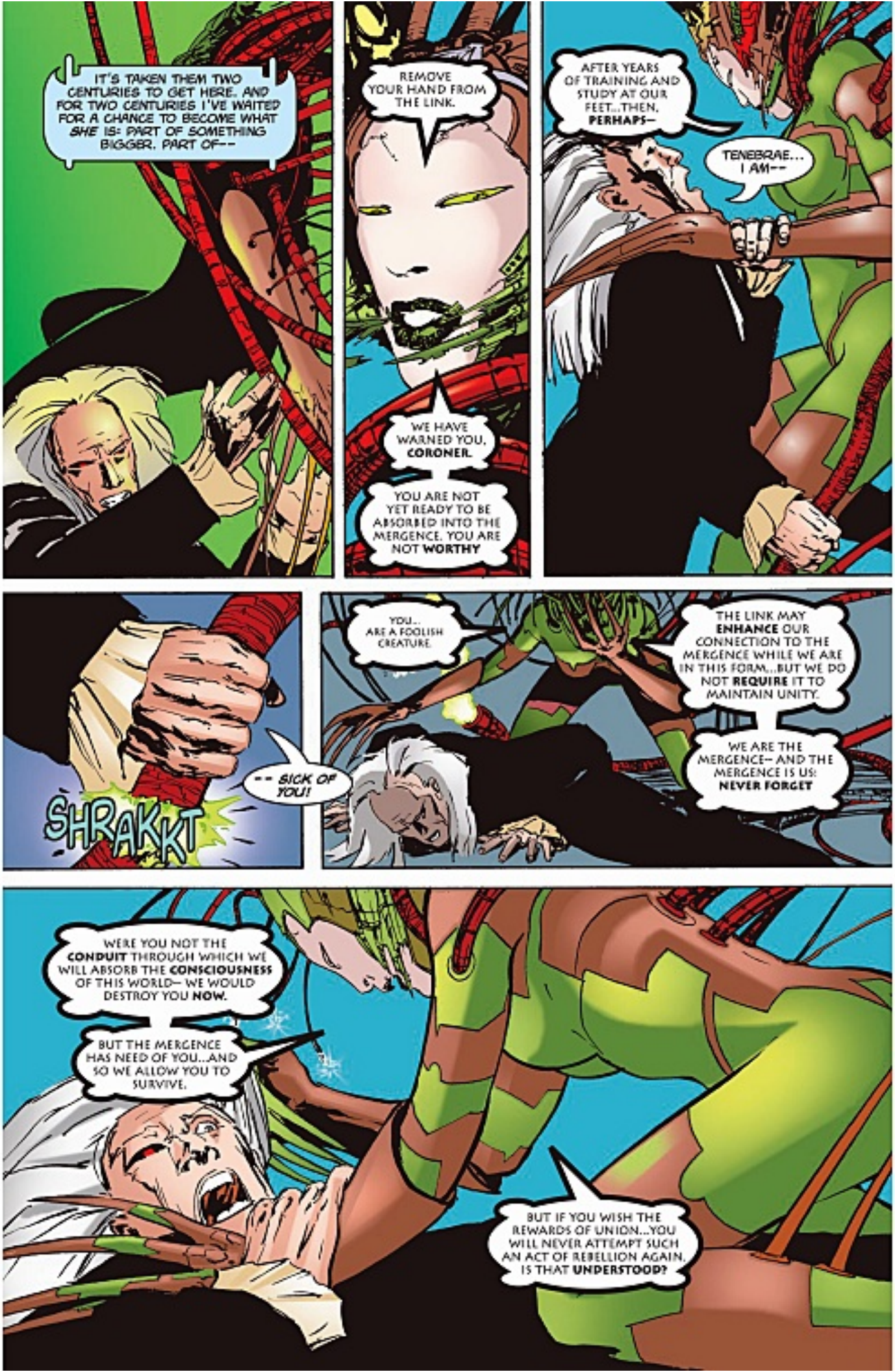

...am I so happy?
I have been thrust into the Macroverse against my will...the doorway to my own reality is impassable...Alicia Masters is somewhere across the void, no doubt in need of my help...
...and yet I am filled with elation, the joy of discovery!
I will find the door home-- but the only way to discover that door is through exploring this extraordinary place!
And the truth is-- the Silver Surfer is never more fulfilled than when he is surfing the quantum waves of the unknown.
After endless years of sailing the spaceways of my own universe-- investigating every distant corner, every faraway star-- I have at last found a place that presents me with a challenge...
...that dares me to fly higher! Push farther, deeper! That holds unimagined mysteries...

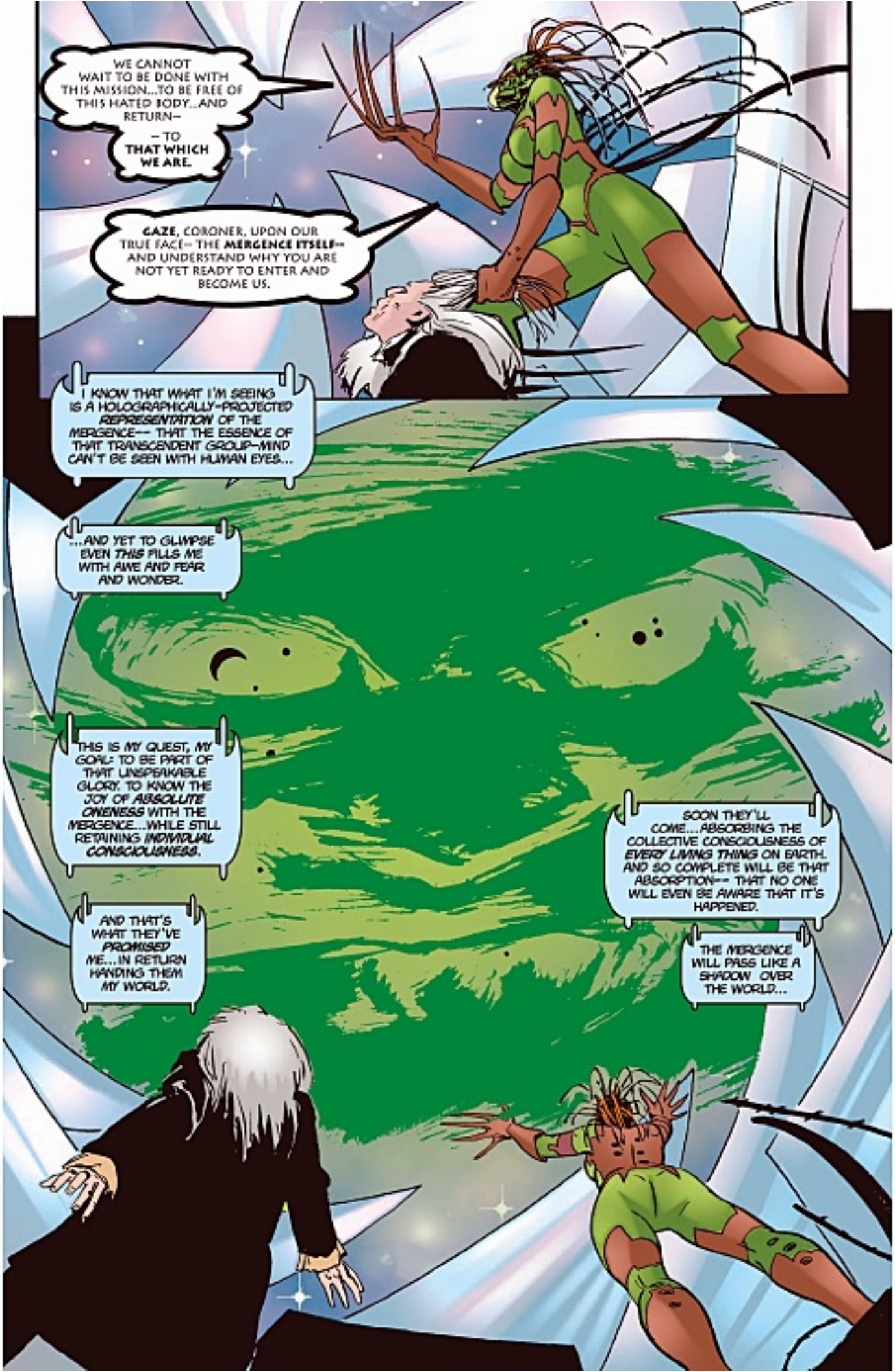

...answers to questions I have yet to conceive!
This world is the first of many that will provoke those questions...yield those answers!
And what a world it is!
The lake and sky are of a color so vibrant that it nearly blinds me. The world itself vibrates through my being...the collected consciousness of its life-forms resonating in my cells...
...singing to me!
And the deepest, the truest, melody-- a hymn of beauty, purity, and heartbreaking sorrow...
...calls out to me...

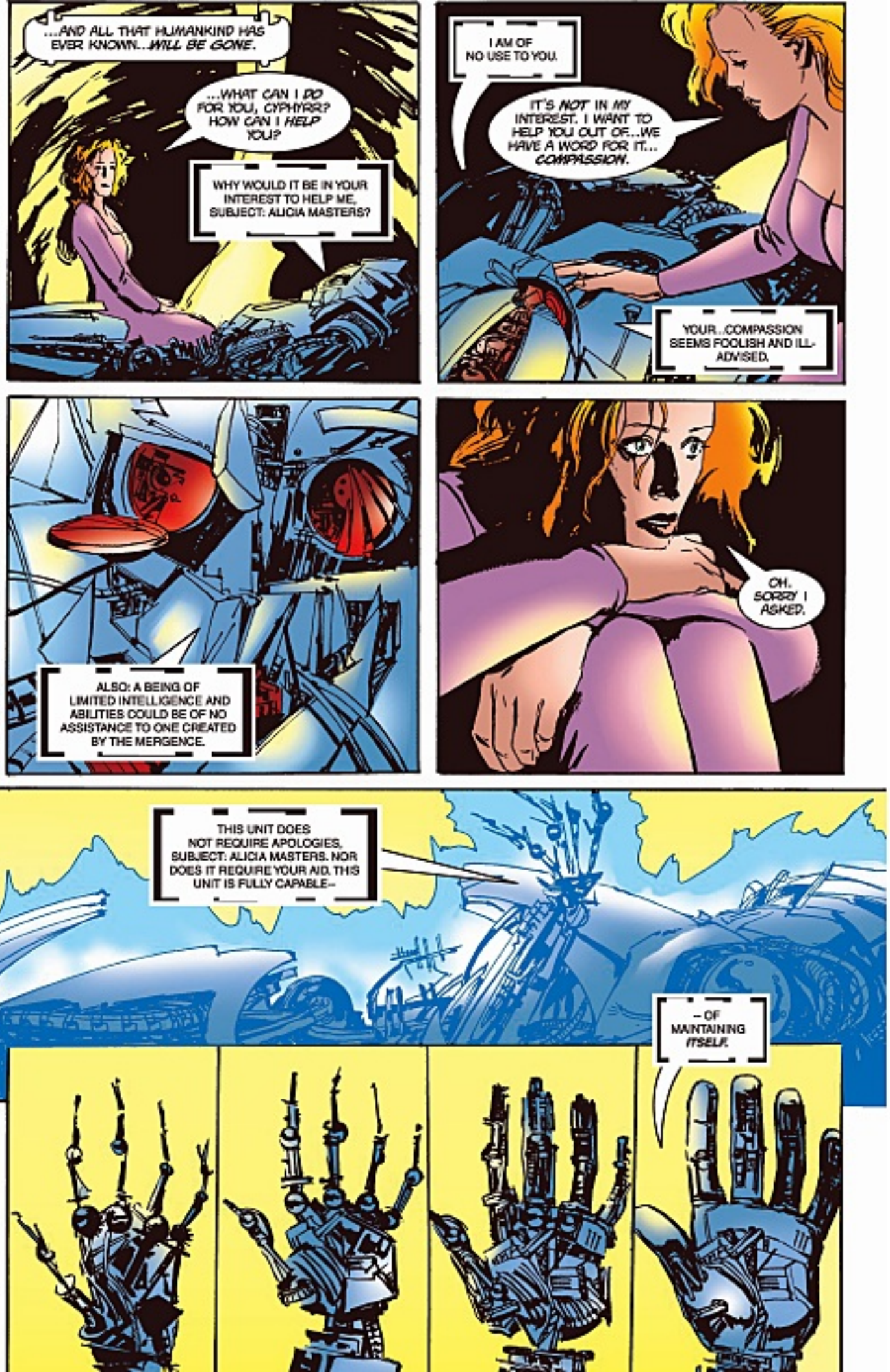

...from here; a cavern carved, like a heart, in the deeps of the lake. Rich with sweet-scented air and pulsing, twining vegetation...
And as the world-song thunders around me, within me-- penetrating the sacred corners of my soul...
...I behold her.
I am Brahmanes...Mother of the world. Womb, spirit, heart and mind of her.
I am the consciousness of this planet. All living things that grow from me, upon me, are my children: independent-- yet always...all ways...connected to me.
I am Brahmanes-- and I welcome you, man of silver- into my arms.


YOU ARE THE MOTHER OF THIS GLORIOUS WORLD-- YOU GAVE BIRTH TO PARADISE-- AND YET, AT THE CORE OF YOUR SONG--
-- IS A PROFOUND GRIEF. SADNESS BEYOND EXPRESSION!
WHY?
YOU HAVE PRODUCED SUCH BEAUTY...SUCH JOY-- AND YET YOU WEEP!
Yes, I have indeed birthed perfection. As pure and unstained a world as has ever existed in any universe.
But joy cannot exist in isolation.
Out there...across the great and timeless Creation...there are beings in pain, in need, I hear them, feel them. They resonate within me-
-- as I now resonate within you.
Let my beloved children know nothing but innocence and happiness. May the shadow of sadness and suffering never touch them.
But I am connected not just to them-- but to all things. And I must share in the sorrows of Creation.
And, in sharing-- perhaps ease the suffering of some lonely creature...lost in despair on another world.
I see your soul, silver one. I see your heart. And know that you, of all beings, can understand what I say. What I do. Why I suffer.
And I know-
-- that you will suffer with me.
She caresses me, enfolds me-- shares one drop of the infinite ocean of her heartbreak.

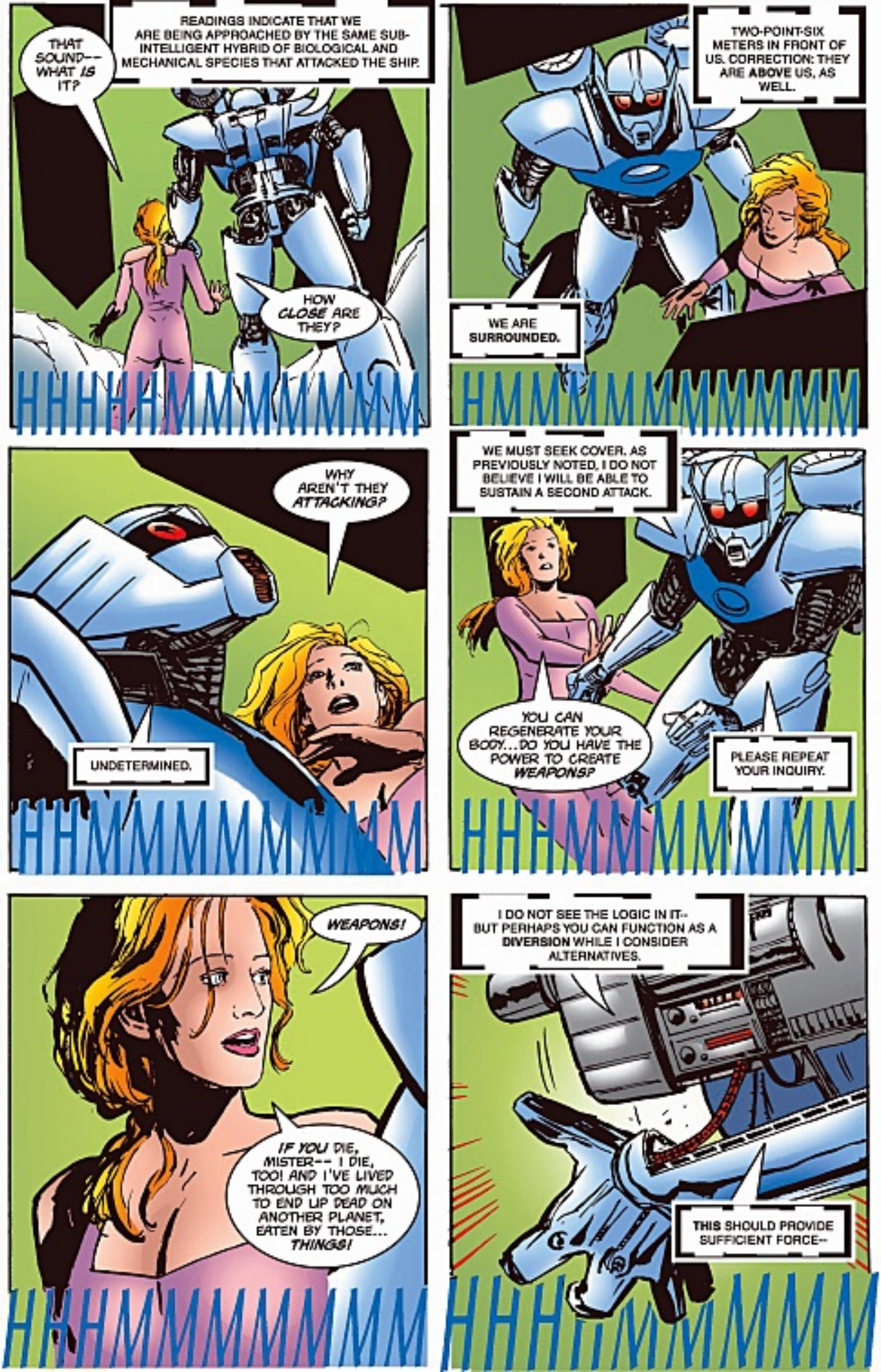

And it is too much to bear.
I LOOK AT HER... TENEBRAE... DEEP IN COMMUNION WITH THE MERGENCE...
...LOST IN THE ALL-ENFOLDING BLISS I SO DESPERATELY DESIRE...AND I HATE HER!
FOR WHAT SHE IS, FOR WHAT SHE HAS-- AND FOR THE WAY SHE'S TREATED ME SINCE HER ARRIVAL ON THIS WORLD. MY WORLD.
THEY'RE PLANNING FOR THE COMING INVASION OF EARTH. BUT THAT MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
WHAT I WANT IS TO BE TAKEN UP, INTO THAT GREAT, UNFATHOMABLE CONSCIOUSNESS. TO BE FREE OF THIS BODY, THE LIMITATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL CONSCIOUSNESS! TO TOUCH THE MERGENCE DIRECTLY...
...AND BE FREE.
THAT'S WHY I CALLED THEM HERE, FROM ACROSS THE GALAXIES, MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
I WAS BORN AN OUTCAST: ABLE TO READ THE THOUGHTS NOT JUST OF MEN-- BUT OF PLANTS, ANIMALS, THE EARTH ITSELF. I SAW, FELT, LIVED AS NO OTHER HUMAN COULD.
AND I GREW TO LOATHE MY WORLD AND THE SMALL, STUPID CREATURES WHO POPULATE IT.
MY HEART CRIED OUT FOR OTHERS, OF MY KIND: NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I WOULD SEND MY MIND FORTH, IN SEARCH OF...SOMETHING. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT.
AND ONE NIGHT, IN MY FIFTIETH YEAR, I FOUND IT. FOUND THEM: THE MERGENCE.
BRUSHING, FOR JUST AN INSTANT, THAT MASSIVE CONSCIOUSNESS: THAT MOMENT OF INEFFABLE CONTACT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE MERGENCE BECAME AWARE OF EARTH.


IT'S TAKEN THEM TWO CENTURIES TO GET HERE. AND FOR TWO CENTURIES I'VE WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO BECOME WHAT *SHE* IS: PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER. PART OF--
REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM THE LINK.
WE HAVE WARNED YOU, **CORONER.**
YOU ARE NOT YET READY TO BE ABSORBED INTO THE MERGENCE. YOU ARE NOT **WORTHY**
AFTER YEARS OF TRAINING AND STUDY AT OUR FEET...THEN, **PERHAPS--**
TENEBRAE... I AM--
SHRAKKT
-- *SICK OF YOU!*
YOU... ARE A FOOLISH CREATURE.
THE LINK MAY **ENHANCE** OUR CONNECTION TO THE MERGENCE WHILE WE ARE IN THIS FORM...BUT WE DO NOT **REQUIRE** IT TO MAINTAIN UNITY.
WE ARE THE MERGENCE-- AND THE MERGENCE IS US: **NEVER FORGET**
WERE YOU NOT THE **CONDUIT** THROUGH WHICH WE WILL ABSORB THE **CONSCIOUSNESS** OF THIS WORLD-- WE WOULD DESTROY YOU **NOW.**
BUT THE MERGENCE HAS NEED OF YOU...AND SO WE ALLOW YOU TO SURVIVE.
BUT IF YOU WISH THE REWARDS OF UNION...YOU WILL NEVER ATTEMPT SUCH AN ACT OF REBELLION AGAIN. IS THAT **UNDERSTOOD?**

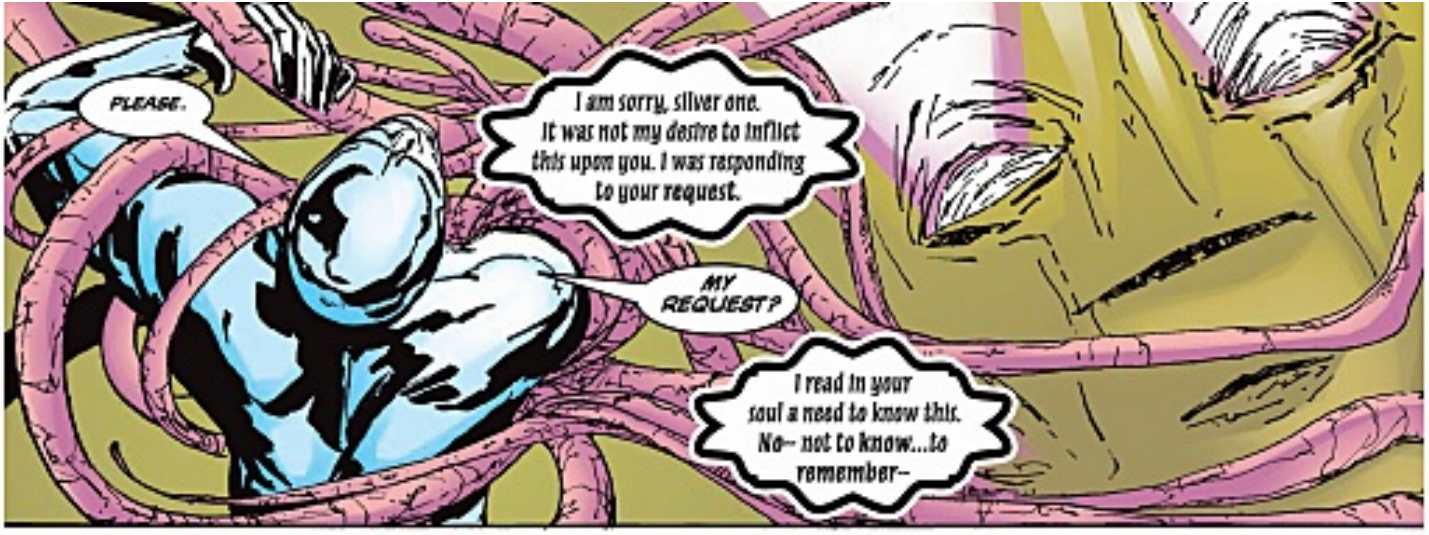

WE CANNOT WAIT TO BE DONE WITH THIS MISSION...TO BE FREE OF THIS HATED BODY...AND RETURN—
– TO THAT WHICH WE ARE.
GAZE, CORONER, UPON OUR TRUE FACE— THE MERGENCE ITSELF— AND UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE NOT YET READY TO ENTER AND BECOME US.
I KNOW THAT WHAT I'M SEEING IS A HOLOGRAPHICALLY-PROJECTED REPRESENTATION OF THE MERGENCE— THAT THE ESSENCE OF THAT TRANSCENDENT GROUP-MIND CAN'T BE SEEN WITH HUMAN EYES...
...AND YET TO GLIMPSE EVEN THIS FILLS ME WITH AWE AND FEAR AND WONDER.
THIS IS MY QUEST, MY GOAL: TO BE PART OF THAT UNSPEAKABLE GLORY, TO KNOW THE JOY OF ABSOLUTE ONENESS WITH THE MERGENCE...WHILE STILL RETAINING INDIVIDUAL CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND THAT'S WHAT THEY'VE PROMISED ME...IN RETURN HANDING THEM MY WORLD.
SOON THEY'LL COME...ABSORBING THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS OF EVERY LIVING THING ON EARTH. AND SO COMPLETE WILL BE THAT ABSORPTION— THAT NO ONE WILL EVEN BE AWARE THAT IT'S HAPPENED.
THE MERGENCE WILL PASS LIKE A SHADOW OVER THE WORLD...

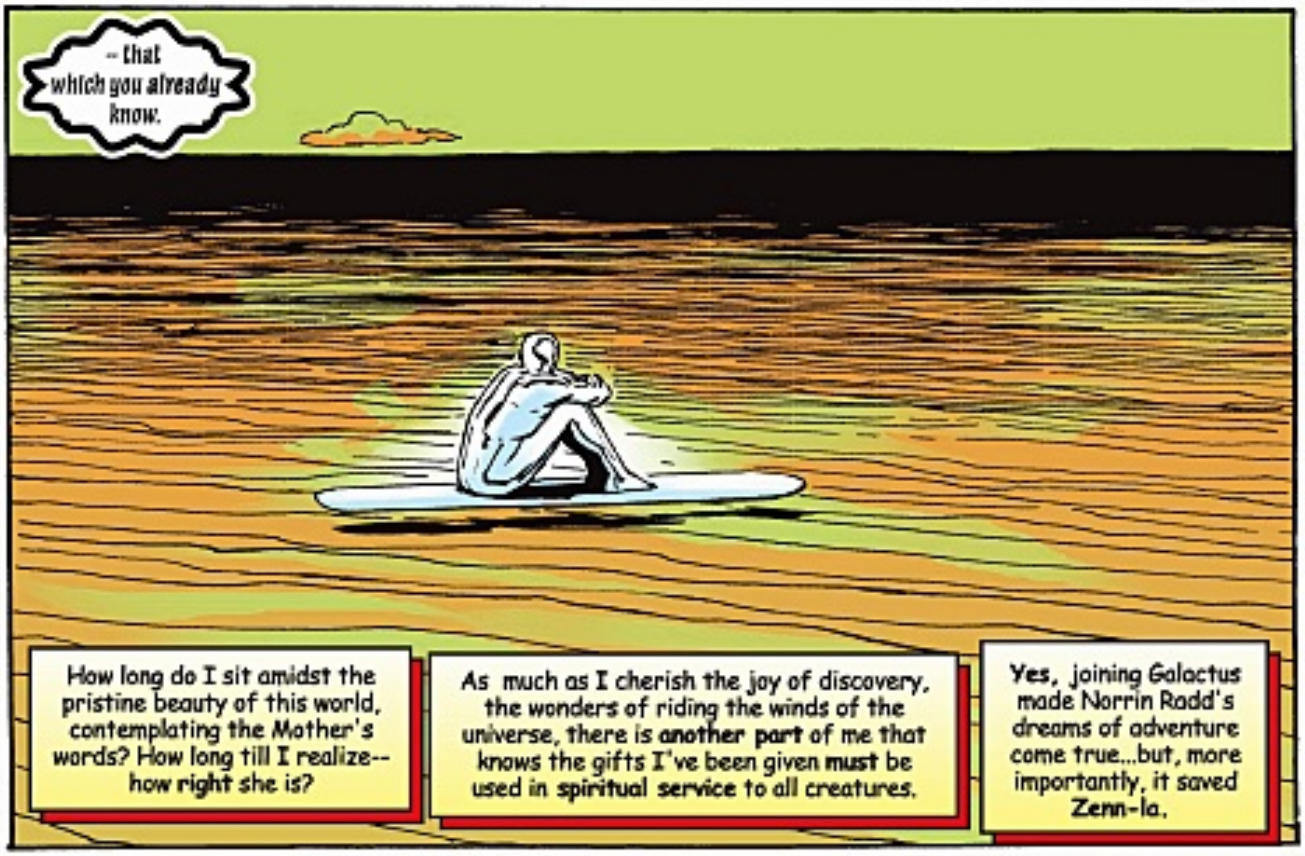

...AND ALL THAT HUMANKIND HAS EVER KNOWN...WILL BE GONE.
...WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, CYPHYRR? HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
WHY WOULD IT BE IN YOUR INTEREST TO HELP ME, SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS?
I AM OF NO USE TO YOU.
IT'S NOT IN MY INTEREST. I WANT TO HELP YOU OUT OF...WE HAVE A WORD FOR IT... COMPASSION.
YOUR...COMPASSION SEEMS FOOLISH AND ILL-ADVISED.
ALSO: A BEING OF LIMITED INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITIES COULD BE OF NO ASSISTANCE TO ONE CREATED BY THE MERGENCE.
OH. SORRY I ASKED.
THIS UNIT DOES NOT REQUIRE APOLOGIES, SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS. NOR DOES IT REQUIRE YOUR AID. THIS UNIT IS FULLY CAPABLE--
-- OF MAINTAINING ITSELF.

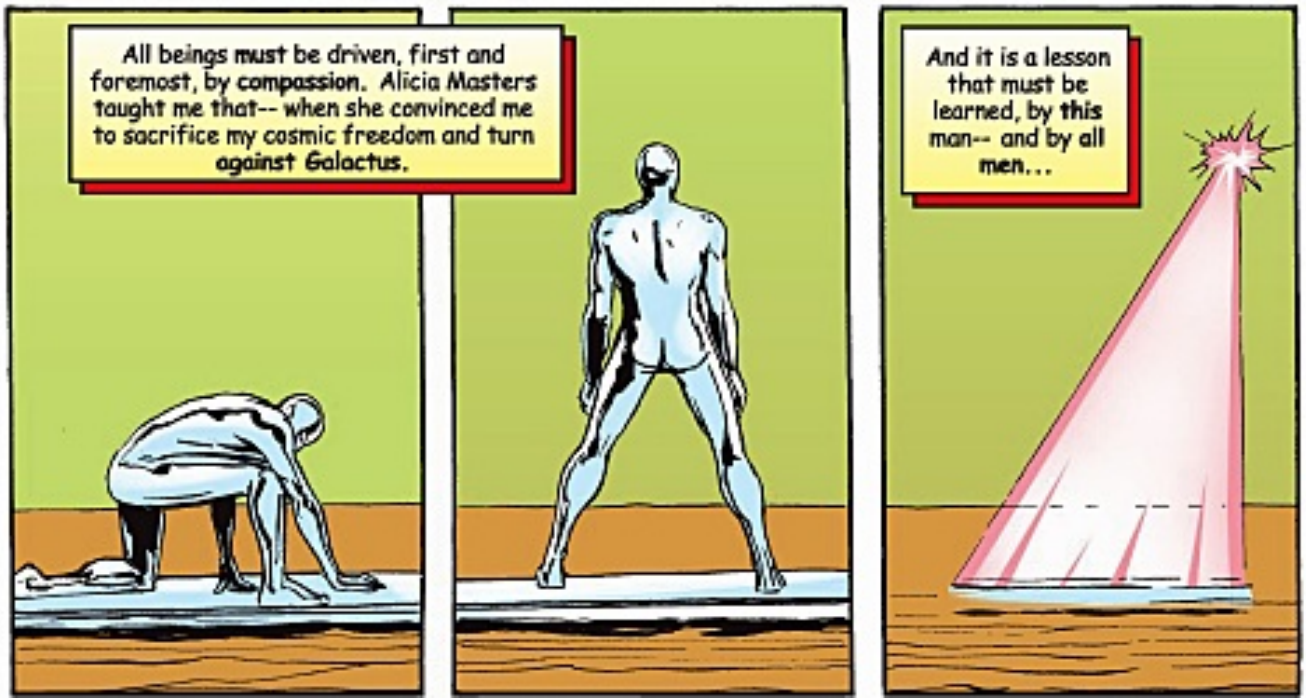
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU COULD DO THAT?
THERE WAS NO NEED.
IS THAT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO INDEFINITELY? NO MATTER WHAT DAMAGE YOU SUSTAIN?
NEGATIVE. A SUSTAINED ATTACK BY THE HORDE THAT ATTACKED THIS UNIT WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE DESTROYED ME.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THE SWARM HAS DEVOURED MY SHIP, THE ESCAPE PODS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, AND-- UNTIL I INITIATE THE SECOND LEVEL OF SELF-REPAIR-- I AM ONLY CAPABLE OF LIMITED FLIGHT.
WE ARE, IT SEEMS, TRAPPED HERE. UNTIL DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE IS ABLE TO RETRIEVE US, THIS UNIT MUST DO WHAT IT CAN TO INSURE YOUR SURVIVAL.
WELL, THEN-- WHAT SAY WE GO OUTSIDE AND START EXPLORING?
YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE THIS UNIT'S SIDE.
EXCUSE ME?
I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO CONTROL, SUSTAIN, SUPERVISE, AND PROTECT YOU UNTIL DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE ORDERS OTHERWISE. I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNTIL MY FUNCTIONING-- OR YOURS -- CEASES.
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT SO ROMANTICALLY, I--
WAIT.

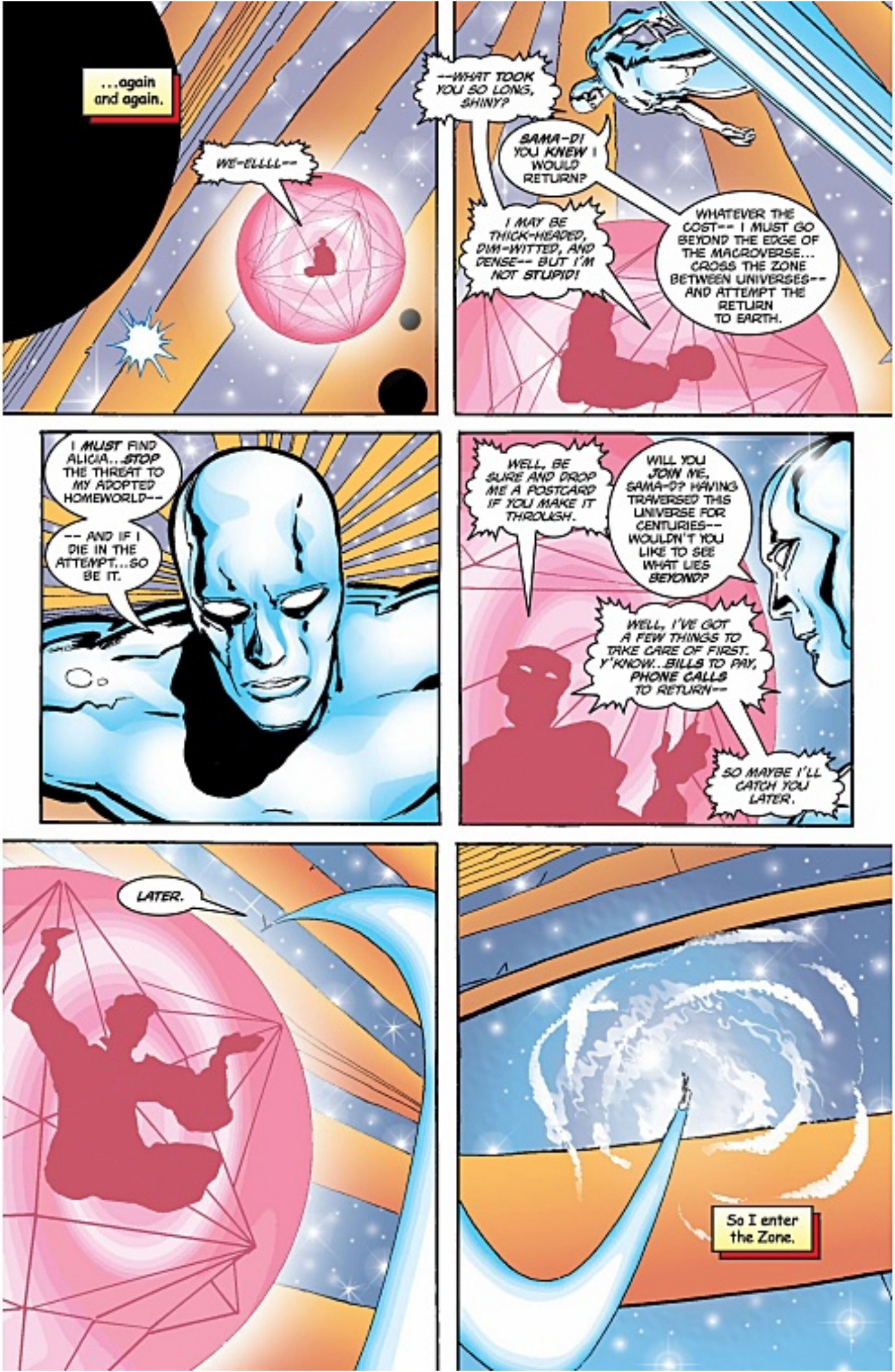

READINGS INDICATE THAT WE ARE BEING APPROACHED BY THE SAME SUB-INTELLIGENT HYBRID OF BIOLOGICAL AND MECHANICAL SPECIES THAT ATTACKED THE SHIP.
THAT SOUND-- WHAT IS IT?
HOW CLOSE ARE THEY?
HHHHHMMMMMMM
TWO-POINT-SIX METERS IN FRONT OF US. CORRECTION: THEY ARE ABOVE US, AS WELL.
WE ARE SURROUNDED.
HMMMMMMMMMM
WHY AREN'T THEY ATTACKING?
UNDETERMINED.
HHMMMMMMMM
WE MUST SEEK COVER. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, I DO NOT BELIEVE I WILL BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN A SECOND ATTACK.
YOU CAN REGENERATE YOUR BODY...DO YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE WEAPONS?
PLEASE REPEAT YOUR INQUIRY.
HHHMMMMMM
WEAPONS!
IF YOU DIE, MISTER-- I DIE, TOO! AND I'VE LIVED THROUGH TOO MUCH TO END UP DEAD ON ANOTHER PLANET, EATEN BY THOSE... THINGS!
HHHMMMMMMM
I DO NOT SEE THE LOGIC IN IT-- BUT PERHAPS YOU CAN FUNCTION AS A DIVERSION WHILE I CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES.
THIS SHOULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FORCE--
HHHMMMMM

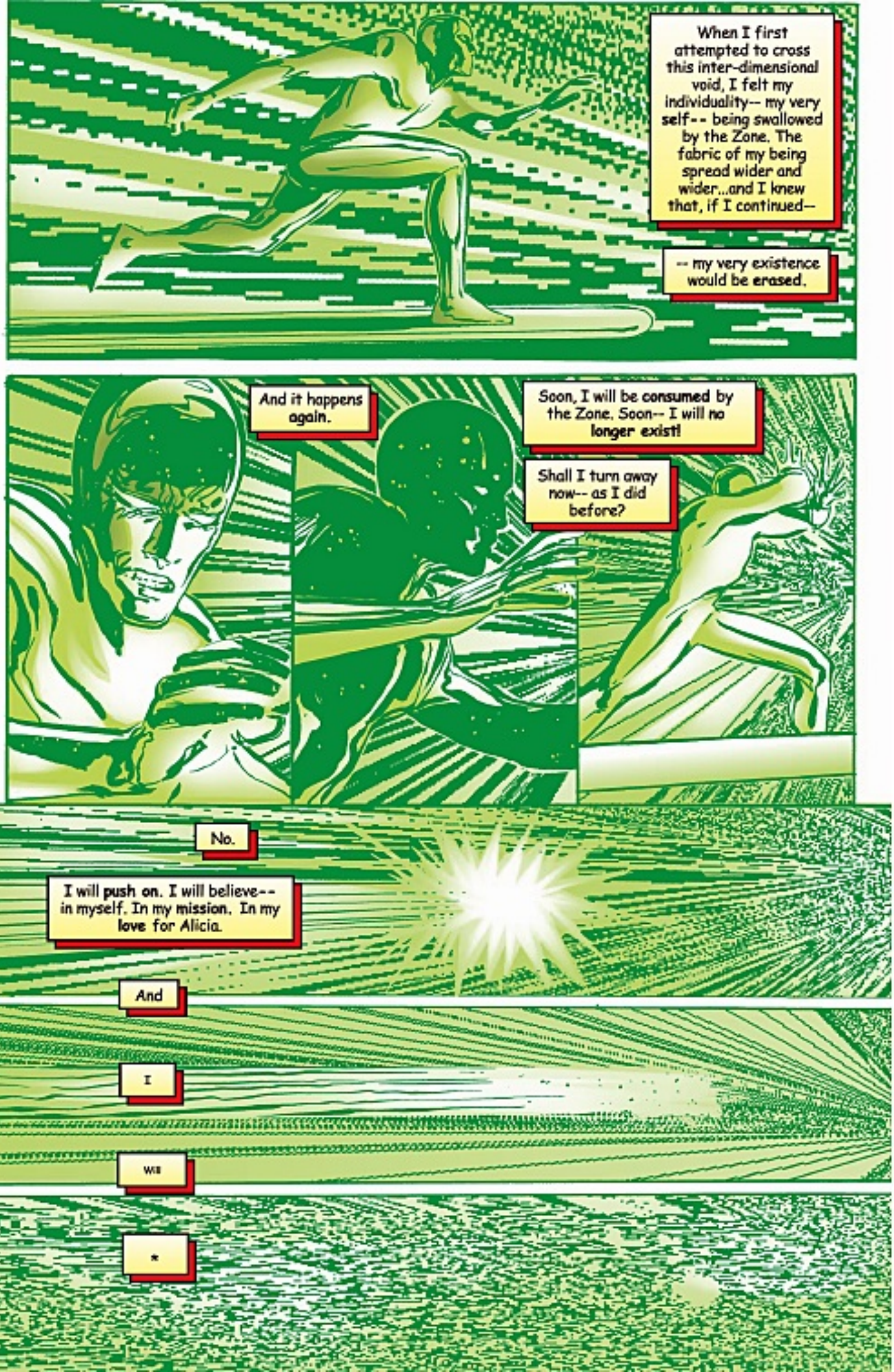
-- ALTHOUGH, ULTIMATELY, IT WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF STOPPING THEM.
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT!
I TRY MY BEST TO SOUND LIKE LINDA HAMILTON... BUT I'M SCARED HALF TO DEATH.
I FIRE WILDLY-- YOU COULD EVEN SAY BLINDLY-- INTO THE SWARM! AND I CAN'T HELP WONDERING...
HHHHMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
...IF I'LL EVER SEE THE SURFER AGAIN.
She opens her consciousness to me-- allowing me to share in the pain of a universe! And I realize that what I'm experiencing-- however terrible-- is just a small part of what Brahmanes constantly endures!
The suffering of entire worlds floods my mind and heart: Hunger, disease, war...lust, madness, rage...unspeakable despair!
BRAHMANES-- PLEASE--
--I CANNOT BEAR THIS!

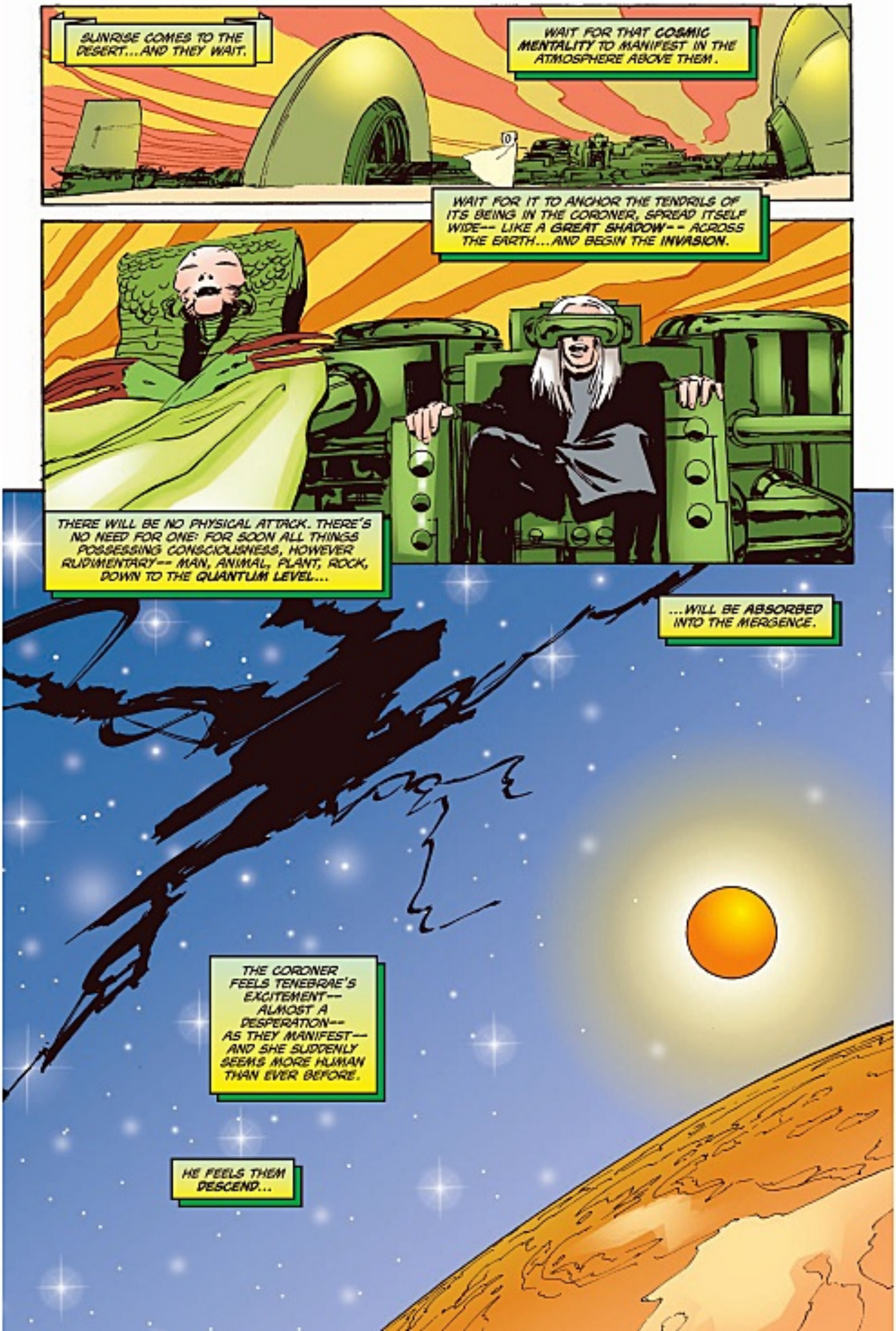

PLEASE.
I am sorry, silver one. It was not my desire to inflict this upon you. I was responding to your request.
MY REQUEST?
I read in your soul a need to know this. No-- not to know...to remember--


-- that which you already know.
How long do I sit amidst the pristine beauty of this world, contemplating the Mother's words? How long till I realize-- how right she is?
As much as I cherish the joy of discovery, the wonders of riding the winds of the universe, there is another part of me that knows the gifts I've been given must be used in spiritual service to all creatures.
Yes, joining Galactus made Norrin Radd's dreams of adventure come true...but, more importantly, it saved Zenn-la.

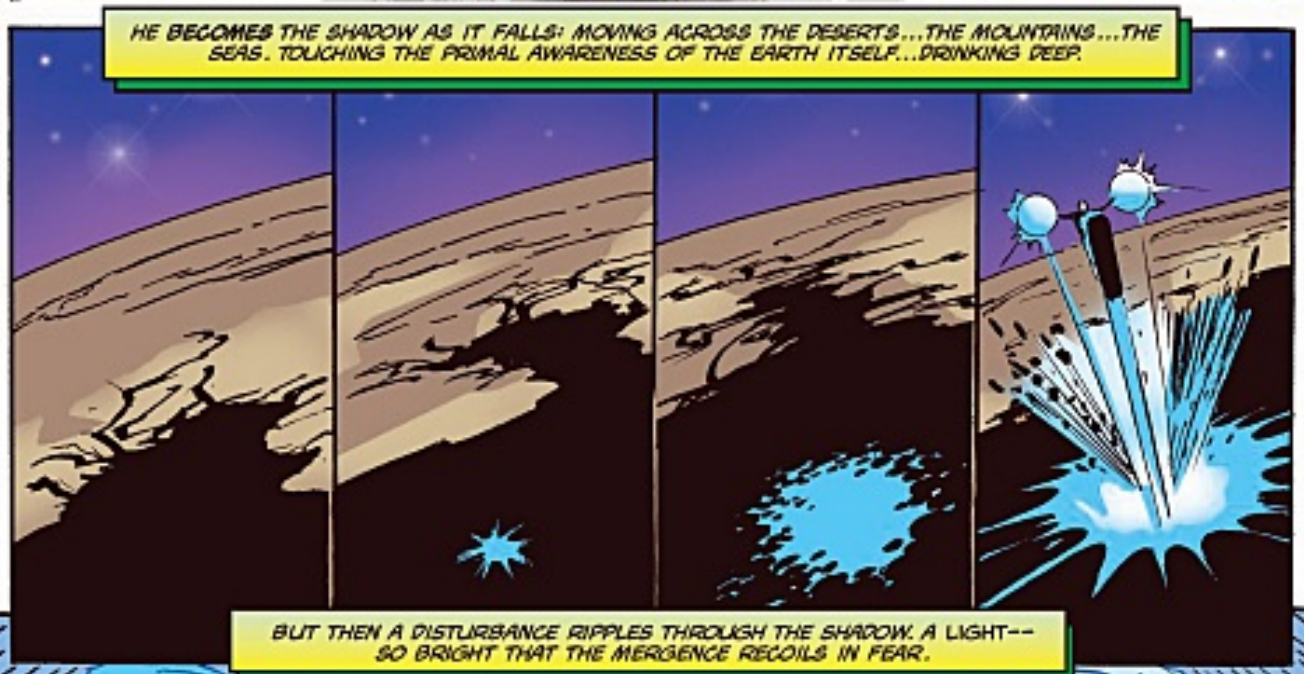

All beings must be driven, first and foremost, by compassion. Alicia Masters taught me that-- when she convinced me to sacrifice my cosmic freedom and turn against Galactus.
And it is a lesson that must be learned, by this man-- and by all men...

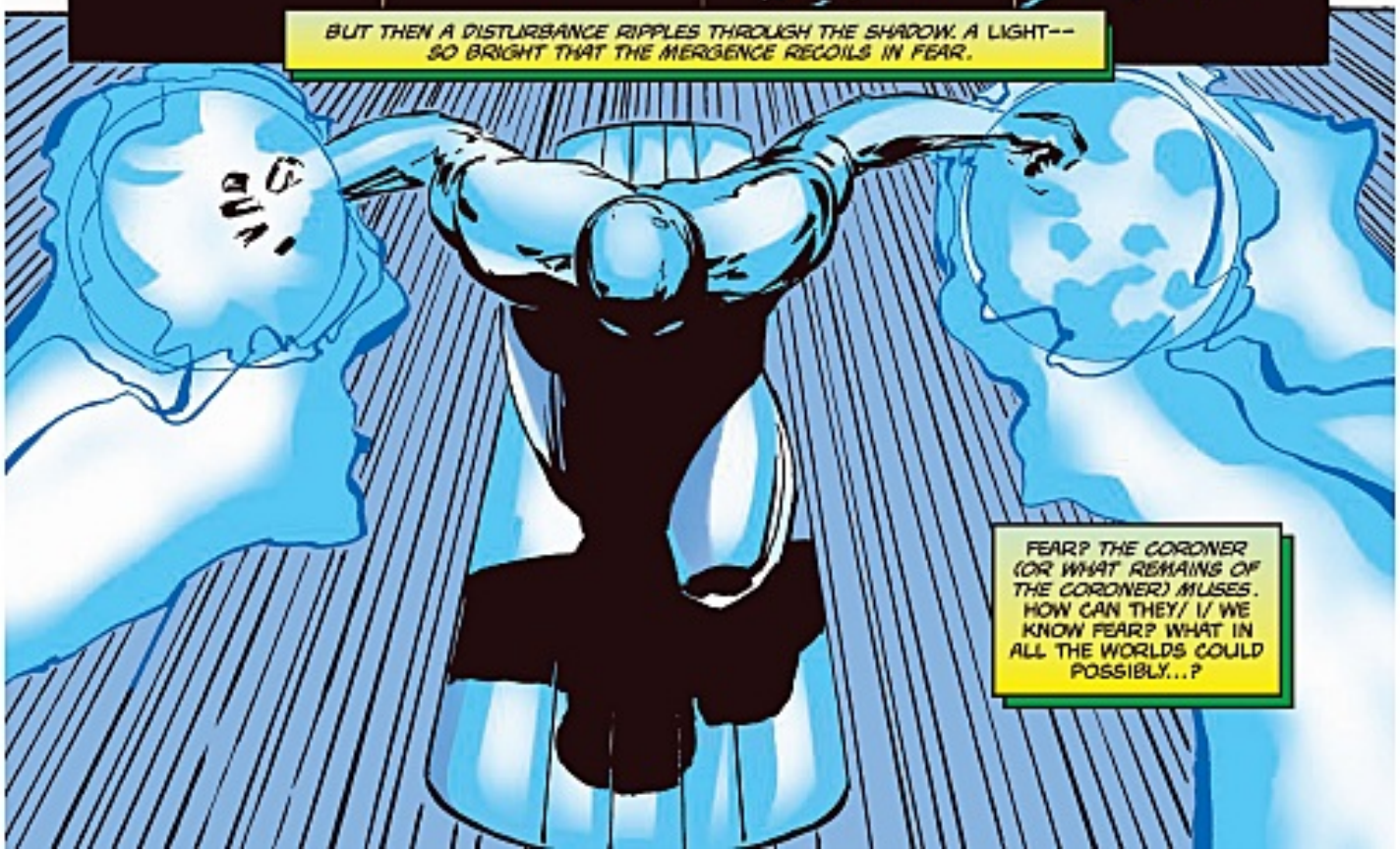

...again and again.
WE-ELLLL--
--WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, SHINY?
SAMA-D! YOU KNEW I WOULD RETURN?
I MAY BE THICK-HEADED, DIM-WITTED, AND DENSE-- BUT I'M NOT STUPID!
WHATEVER THE COST-- I MUST GO BEYOND THE EDGE OF THE MACROVERSE... CROSS THE ZONE BETWEEN UNIVERSES-- AND ATTEMPT THE RETURN TO EARTH.
I MUST FIND ALICIA...STOP THE THREAT TO MY ADOPTED HOMEWORLD--
-- AND IF I DIE IN THE ATTEMPT...SO BE IT.
WELL, BE SURE AND DROP ME A POSTCARD IF YOU MAKE IT THROUGH.
WILL YOU JOIN ME, SAMA-D? HAVING TRAVERSED THIS UNIVERSE FOR CENTURIES-- WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SEE WHAT LIES BEYOND?
WELL, I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST. Y'KNOW...BILLS TO PAY, PHONE CALLS TO RETURN--
SO MAYBE I'LL CATCH YOU LATER.
LATER.
So I enter the Zone.


When I first attempted to cross this inter-dimensional void, I felt my individuality-- my very self-- being swallowed by the Zone. The fabric of my being spread wider and wider...and I knew that, if I continued--
-- my very existence would be erased.
And it happens again.
Soon, I will be consumed by the Zone. Soon-- I will no longer exist!
Shall I turn away now-- as I did before?
No.
I will push on. I will believe-- in myself. In my mission. In my love for Alicia.
And
I
will
*


SUNRISE COMES TO THE DESERT...AND THEY WAIT.
WAIT FOR THAT COSMIC MENTALITY TO MANIFEST IN THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE THEM.
WAIT FOR IT TO ANCHOR THE TENDRILS OF ITS BEING IN THE CORONER, SPREAD ITSELF WIDE-- LIKE A GREAT SHADOW-- ACROSS THE EARTH...AND BEGIN THE INVASION.
THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL ATTACK. THERE'S NO NEED FOR ONE: FOR SOON ALL THINGS POSSESSING CONSCIOUSNESS, HOWEVER RUDIMENTARY-- MAN, ANIMAL, PLANT, ROCK, DOWN TO THE QUANTUM LEVEL...
...WILL BE ABSORBED INTO THE MERGENCE.
THE CORONER FEELS TENEBRAE'S EXCITEMENT-- ALMOST A DESPERATION-- AS THEY MANIFEST-- AND SHE SUDDENLY SEEMS MORE HUMAN THAN EVER BEFORE.
HE FEELS THEM DESCEND...

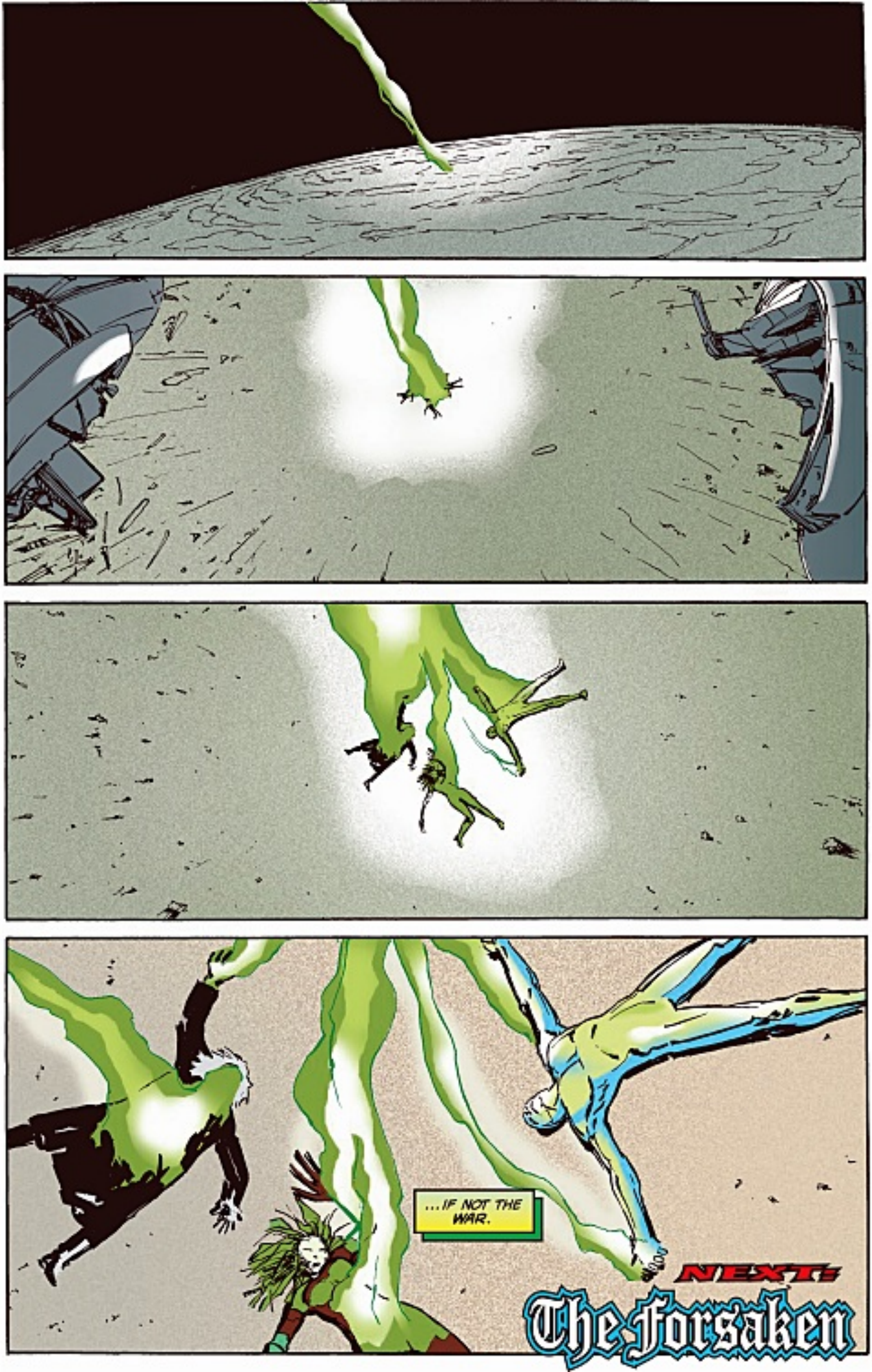
...AND HE IS TRANSFORMED!
HE IS COMPLETE!
HE IS THE MERGENCE!


HE BECOMES THE SHADOW AS IT FALLS: MOVING ACROSS THE DESERTS...THE MOUNTAINS...THE SEAS. TOUCHING THE PRIMAL AWARENESS OF THE EARTH ITSELF...DRINKING DEEP.


BUT THEN A DISTURBANCE RIPPLES THROUGH THE SHADOW. A LIGHT-- SO BRIGHT THAT THE MERGENCE RECOILS IN FEAR.
FEAR? THE CORONER (OR WHAT REMAINS OF THE CORONER) MUSES. HOW CAN THEY/ I/ WE KNOW FEAR? WHAT IN ALL THE WORLDS COULD POSSIBLY...?

THE SKY-RIDER ATTACKS THE HOLO-BODY OF THE MERGENCE... BLASTING THEM WITH HIS COSMIC POWER...
...WITH THE UNYIELDING PURITY OF HIS OWN SOUL...
...AND THE CORONER REALIZES THAT THE MERGENCE DREADS THIS BEING ABOVE ALL: NO ONE ELSE ON THIS PLANET-- NONE OF HER TOWERING SUPER-HUMAN PROTECTORS-- HAS THE POTENTIAL TO STOP THEM.
BUT THE SILVER SURFER DOES!
AND, AS THE COSMIC ANGEL'S PURITY AND POWER RIPPLE THROUGH THEM-- THE CORONER FINDS A PART OF HIMSELF PRAYING FOR THE SURFER. WANTING HIM TO SUCCEED...TO DRIVE THE MERGENCE BACK!
HE THOUGHT THIS HEART WAS DEAD...THAT HE HAD LONG AGO ABANDONED HIS RACE!
SO WHY, NOW, DOES THE VERY SIGHT OF THE SILVER SURFER CAUSE HIM TO DOUBT-- IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT-- ALL THAT HE'S BELIEVED?
ONE INSTANT OF FRAGILE, ALL TOO HUMAN DOUBT...
...BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO BREAK THE CONNECTION...

CHAKA-THOOM!
SHAAK!
...AND WIN THE BATTLE...


...IF NOT THE WAR.
NEXT:
The Forsaken

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SILVER SURFER
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#143
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AT THE MERCY OF PSYCHO-MAN...
...WILL THE SURFER SURVIVE?
DeMATTEIS • COWAN • FLOYD

Stan Lee presents
The SILVER SURFER
The Forsaken
How long have I been sleeping?
The sun radiates like an exploding star in the cloudless sky above-- and I awaken dazed, confused. Not sure where I am...or why.
In recent days I have been thrust, against my will, into parallel realties and new universes; and I wonder where I've found myself now.
JOHN MARC DeMATTEIS WRITER
DENYS COWAN GUEST PENCILER
JOHN FLOYD GUEST INKER
JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER
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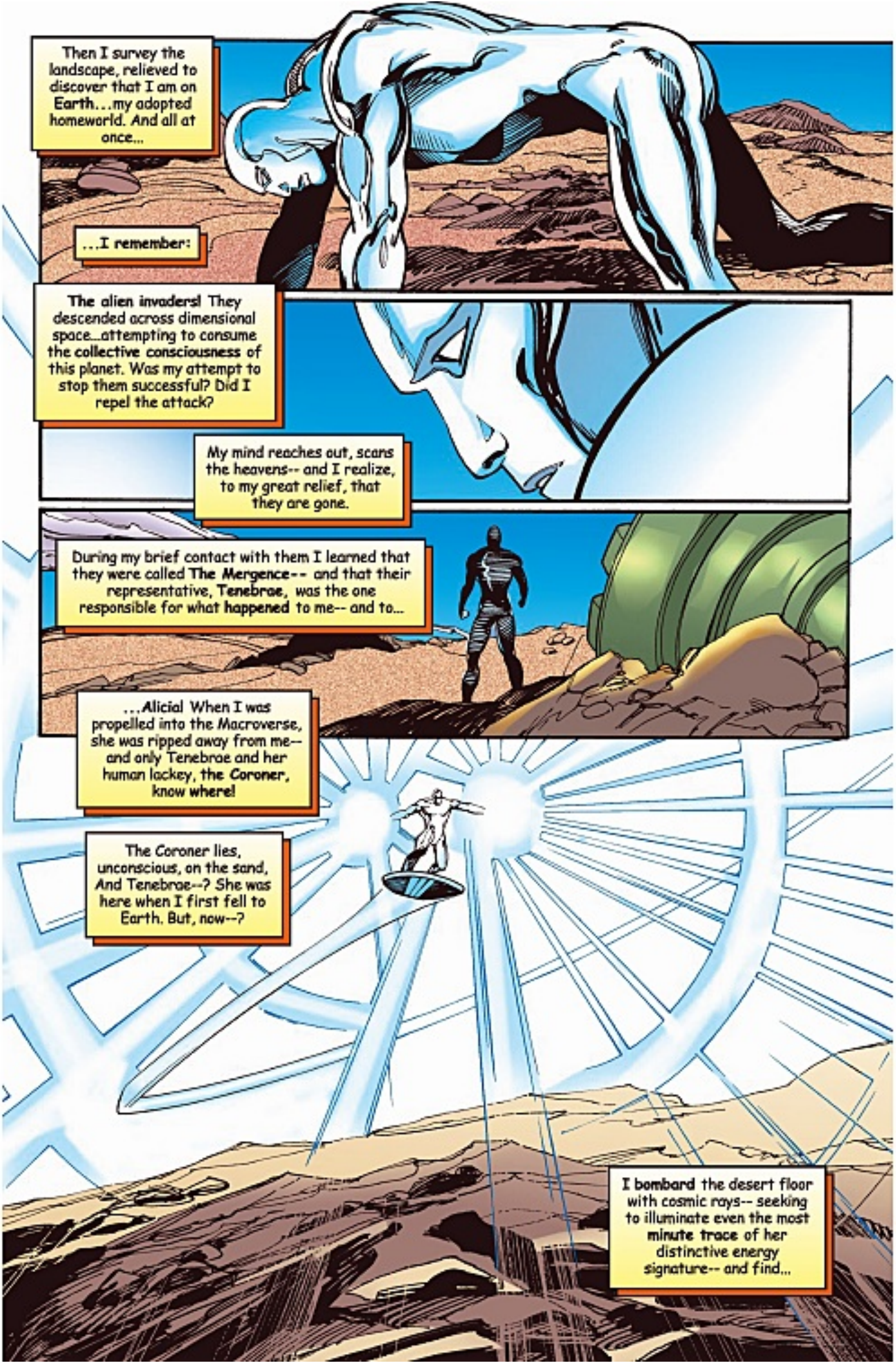
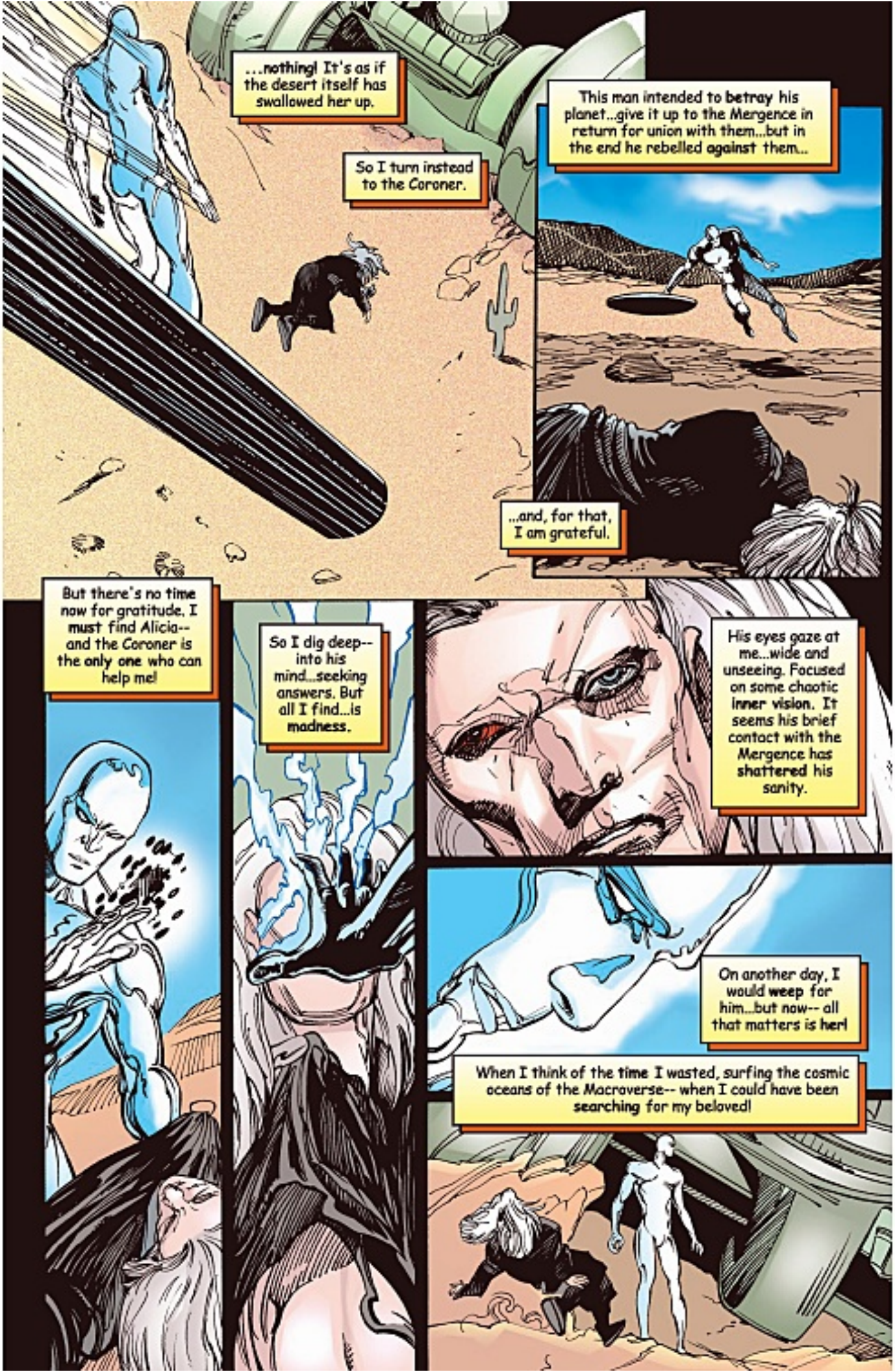
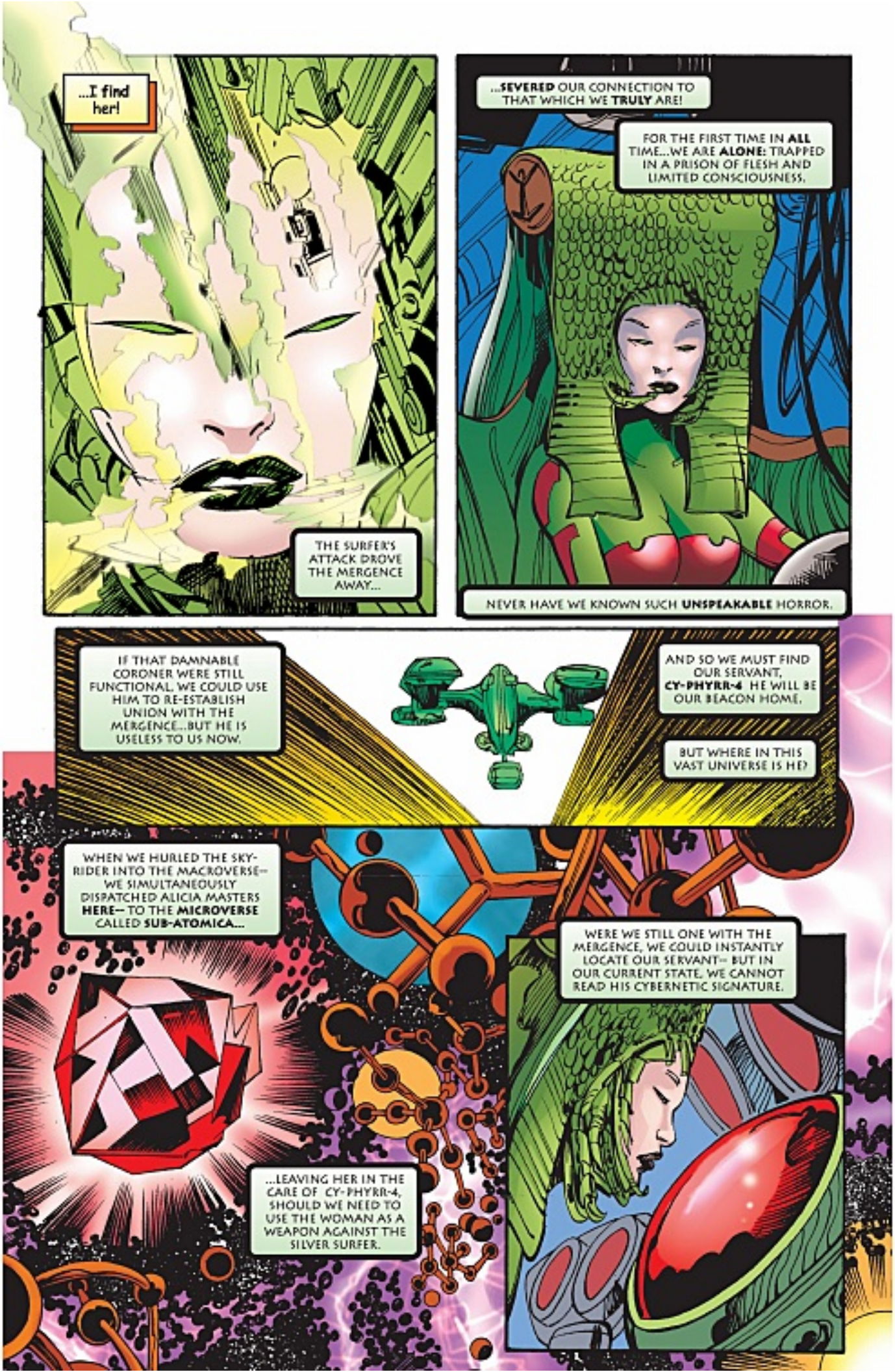
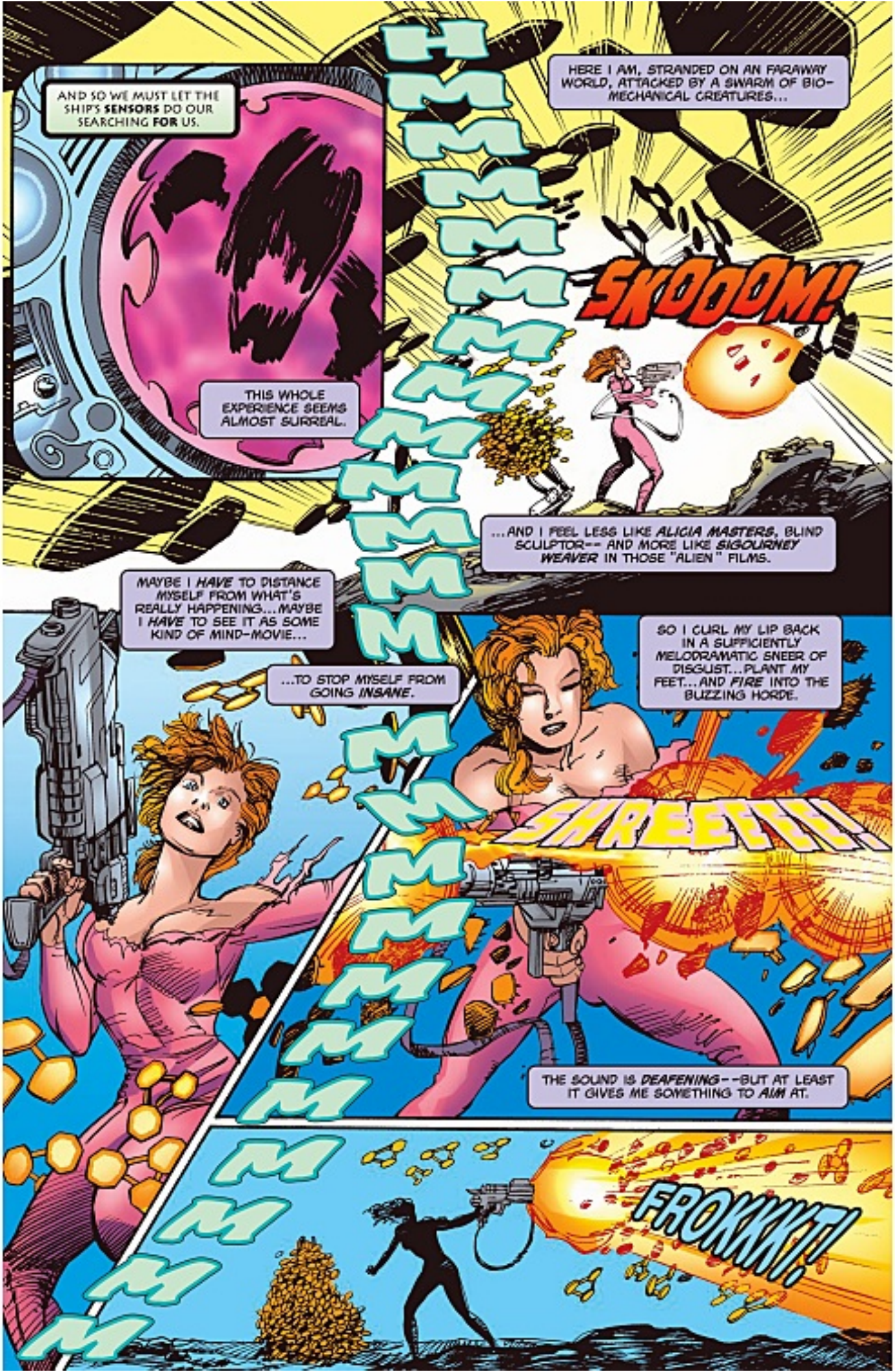
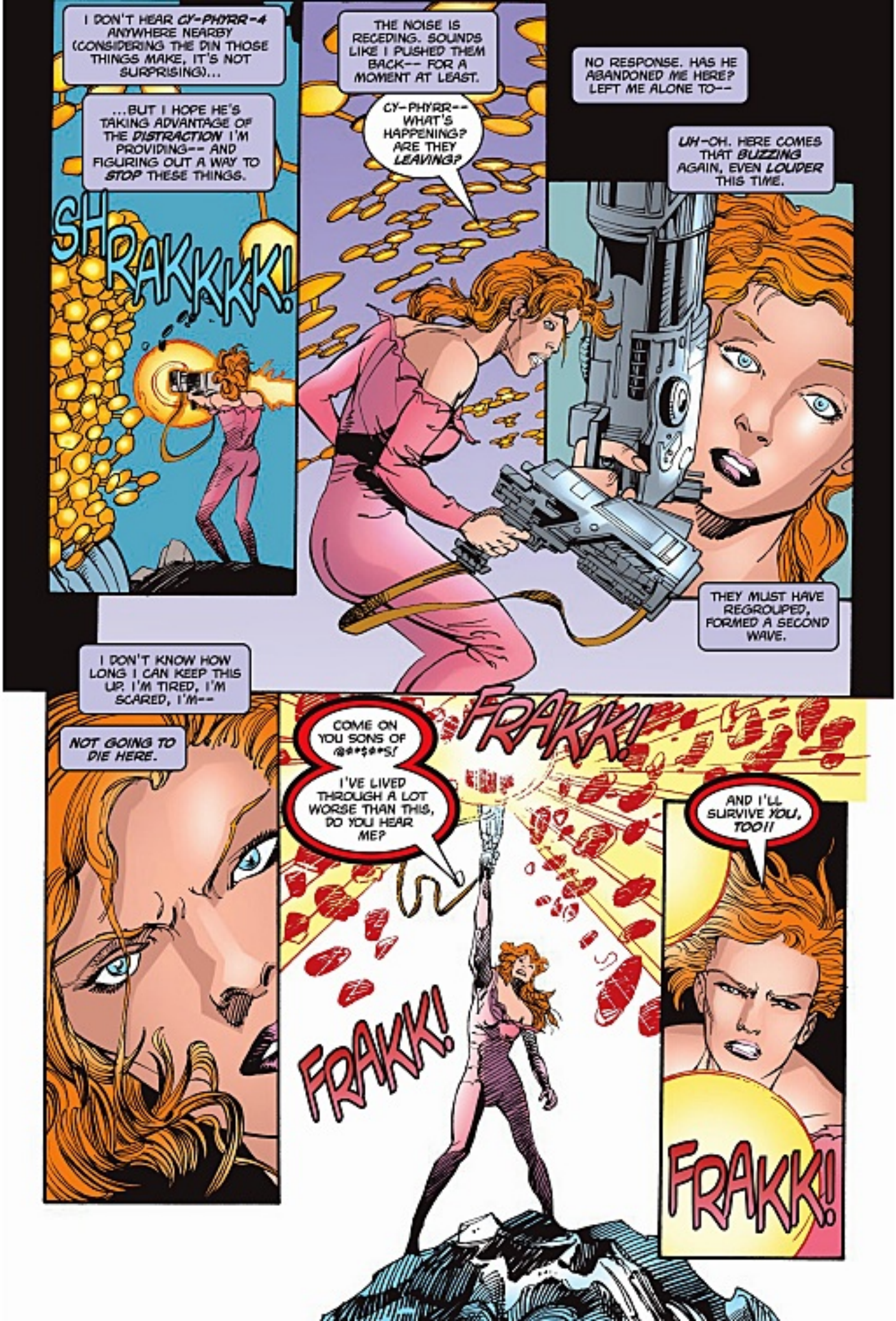

Then I survey the landscape, relieved to discover that I am on Earth...my adopted homeworld. And all at once...
...I remember:
The alien invaders! They descended across dimensional space...attempting to consume the collective consciousness of this planet. Was my attempt to stop them successful? Did I repel the attack?
My mind reaches out, scans the heavens-- and I realize, to my great relief, that they are gone.
During my brief contact with them I learned that they were called The Mergence-- and that their representative, Tenebrae, was the one responsible for what happened to me-- and to...
...Alicia! When I was propelled into the Macroverse, she was ripped away from me-- and only Tenebrae and her human lackey, the Coroner, know where!
The Coroner lies, unconscious, on the sand, And Tenebrae--? She was here when I first fell to Earth. But, now--?
I bombard the desert floor with cosmic rays-- seeking to illuminate even the most minute trace of her distinctive energy signature-- and find...

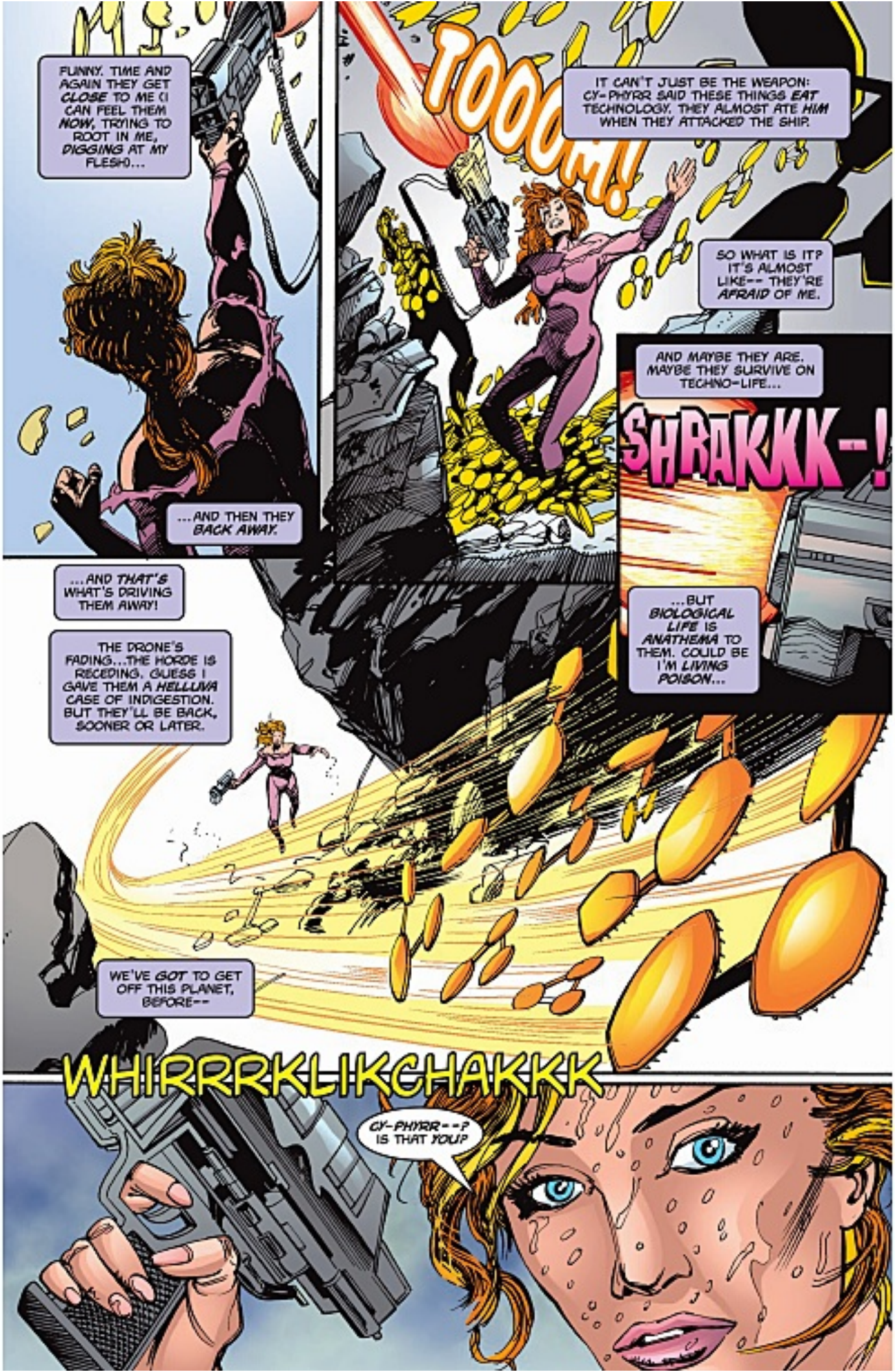

...nothing! It's as if the desert itself has swallowed her up.
So I turn instead to the Coroner.
This man intended to betray his planet...give it up to the Mergence in return for union with them...but in the end he rebelled against them...
...and, for that, I am grateful.
But there's no time now for gratitude. I must find Alicia-- and the Coroner is the only one who can help me!
So I dig deep-- into his mind...seeking answers. But all I find...is madness.
His eyes gaze at me...wide and unseeing. Focused on some chaotic inner vision. It seems his brief contact with the Mergence has shattered his sanity.
On another day, I would weep for him...but now-- all that matters is her!
When I think of the time I wasted, surfing the cosmic oceans of the Macroverse-- when I could have been searching for my beloved!

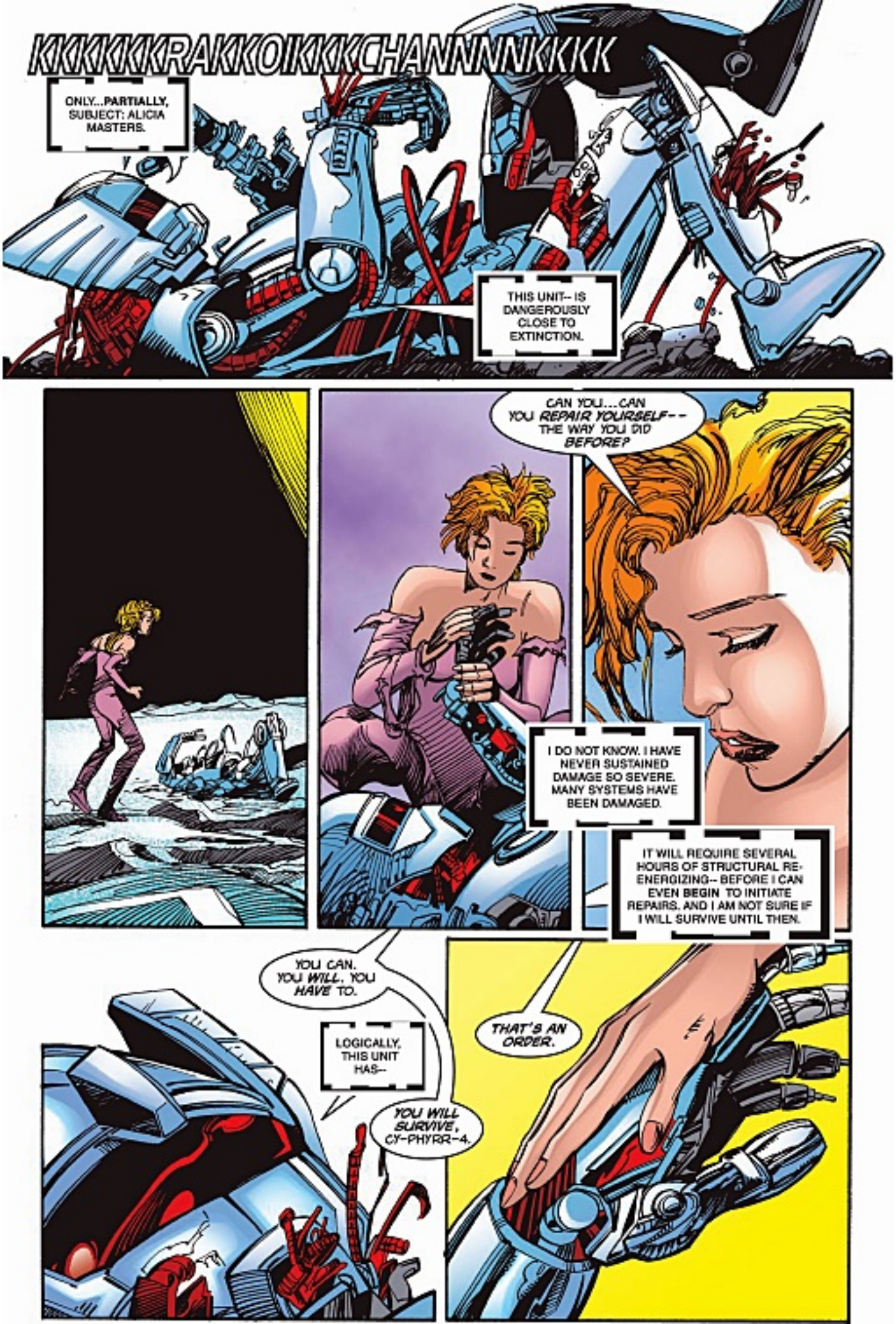
I tell myself that I did what I could...but a part of me feels a grief, and a guilt, too terrible to bear.
So I push it away...
SHOOOM!
...and enter Tenebrae's ship...
...searching for something...anything... that might lead me to Alicia.
But all I find is the machine Tenebrae used to fold us into that parallel universe. Oh, how that witch used us...manipulated us!
For that I shall destroy the machine and--
Idiot! Don't let your anger blind you. This device was intimately linked to Tenebrae's consciousness! Perhaps it holds traces of her mind...some clue to her whereabouts!
So I probe the quantum layers of the machine and, to my astonishment...

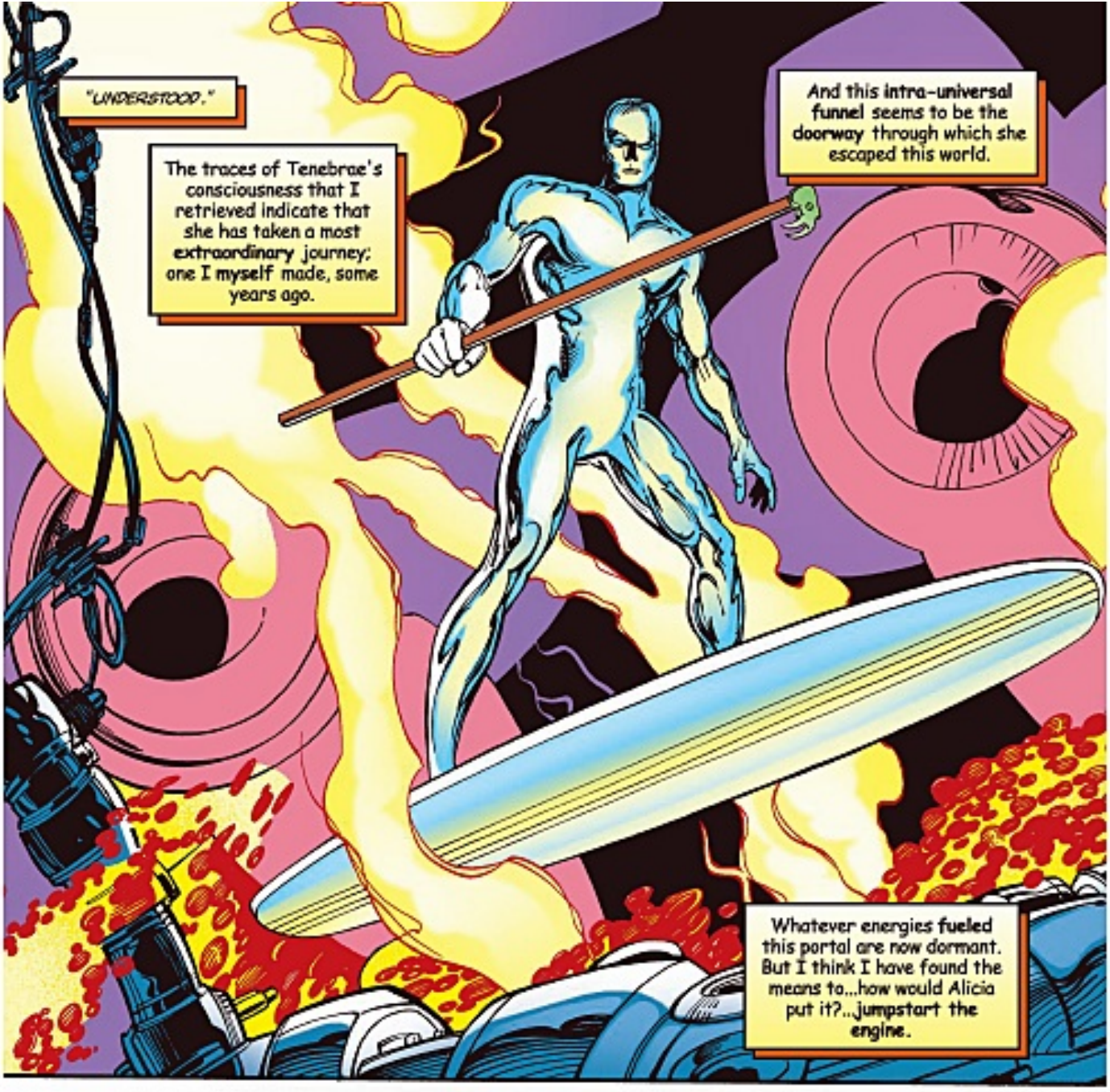

...I find her!
THE SURFER'S ATTACK DROVE THE MERGENCE AWAY...
...SEVERED OUR CONNECTION TO THAT WHICH WE TRULY ARE!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALL TIME...WE ARE ALONE: TRAPPED IN A PRISON OF FLESH AND LIMITED CONSCIOUSNESS.
NEVER HAVE WE KNOWN SUCH UNSPEAKABLE HORROR.
IF THAT DAMNABLE CORONER WERE STILL FUNCTIONAL, WE COULD USE HIM TO RE-ESTABLISH UNION WITH THE MERGENCE...BUT HE IS USELESS TO US NOW.
AND SO WE MUST FIND OUR SERVANT, CY-PHYRR-4. HE WILL BE OUR BEACON HOME.
BUT WHERE IN THIS VAST UNIVERSE IS HE?
WHEN WE HURLED THE SKY-RIDER INTO THE MACROVERSE— WE SIMULTANEOUSLY DISPATCHED ALICIA MASTERS HERE— TO THE MICROVERSE CALLED SUB-ATOMICA...
WERE WE STILL ONE WITH THE MERGENCE, WE COULD INSTANTLY LOCATE OUR SERVANT— BUT IN OUR CURRENT STATE, WE CANNOT READ HIS CYBERNETIC SIGNATURE.
...LEAVING HER IN THE CARE OF CY-PHYRR-4, SHOULD WE NEED TO USE THE WOMAN AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE SILVER SURFER.


AND SO WE MUST LET THE SHIP'S SENSORS DO OUR SEARCHING FOR US.
THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE SEEMS ALMOST SURREAL.
HMMM

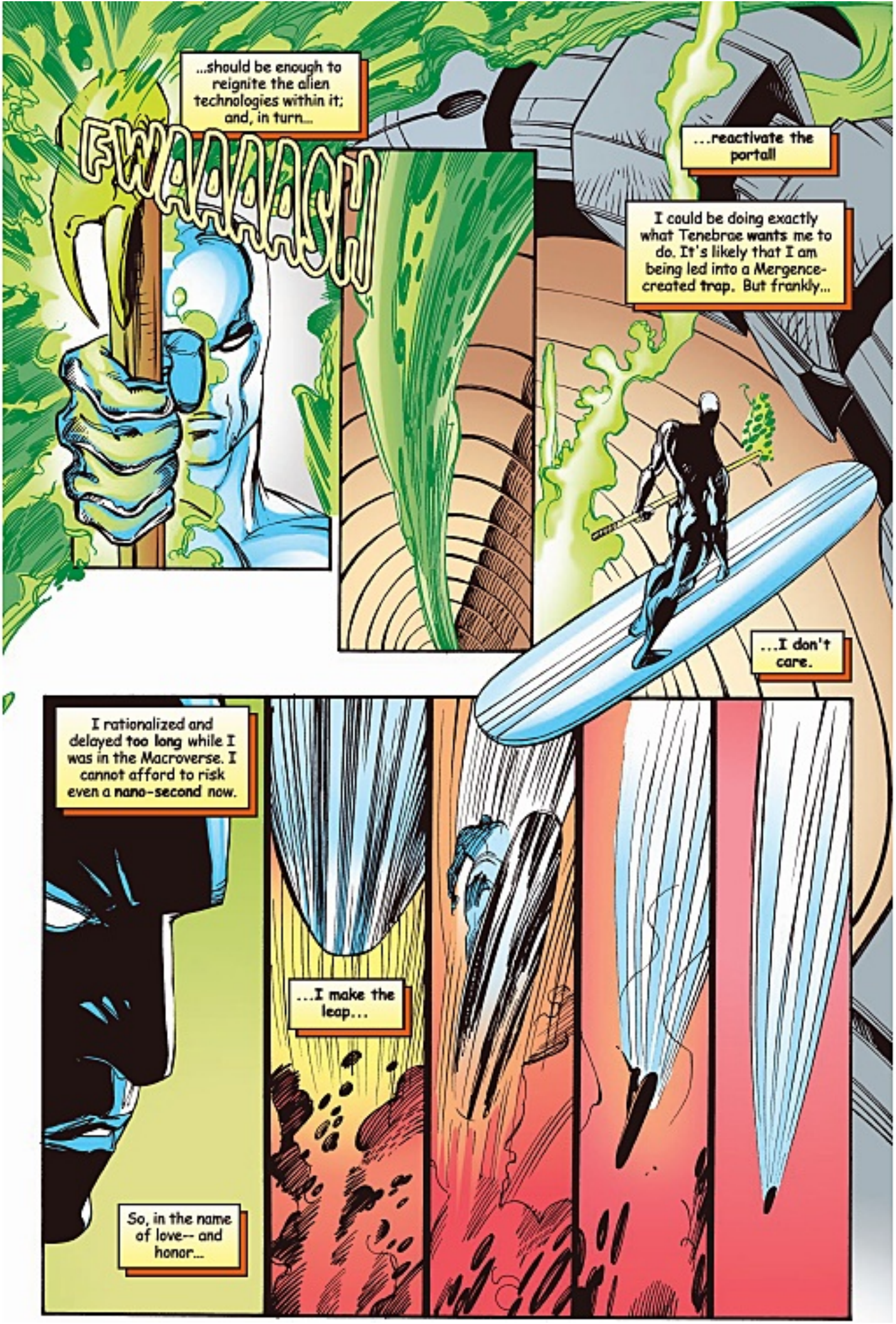

I DON'T HEAR CY-PHYRR-4 ANYWHERE NEARBY (CONSIDERING THE DIN THOSE THINGS MAKE, IT'S NOT SURPRISING)...
...BUT I HOPE HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE DISTRACTION I'M PROVIDING-- AND FIGURING OUT A WAY TO STOP THESE THINGS.
SHRAKKKK!
THE NOISE IS RECEDING. SOUNDS LIKE I PUSHED THEM BACK-- FOR A MOMENT AT LEAST.
CY-PHYRR-- WHAT'S HAPPENING? ARE THEY LEAVING?
NO RESPONSE. HAS HE ABANDONED ME HERE? LEFT ME ALONE TO--
UH-OH. HERE COMES THAT BUZZING AGAIN, EVEN LOUDER THIS TIME.
THEY MUST HAVE REGROUPED, FORMED A SECOND WAVE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THIS UP. I'M TIRED, I'M SCARED, I'M--
NOT GOING TO DIE HERE.
COME ON YOU SONS OF @#*$#*S!
I'VE LIVED THROUGH A LOT WORSE THAN THIS, DO YOU HEAR ME?
FRAKK!
FRAKK!
AND I'LL SURVIVE YOU, TOO!!
FRAKK!


FUNNY. TIME AND AGAIN THEY GET CLOSE TO ME (I CAN FEEL THEM NOW, TRYING TO ROOT IN ME, DIGGING AT MY FLESH)...
...AND THEN THEY BACK AWAY.
...AND THAT'S WHAT'S DRIVING THEM AWAY!
THE DRONE'S FADING...THE HORDE IS RECEDING. GUESS I GAVE THEM A HELLUVA CASE OF INDIGESTION. BUT THEY'LL BE BACK, SOONER OR LATER.
WE'VE GOT TO GET OFF THIS PLANET, BEFORE--
TOOOM!
IT CAN'T JUST BE THE WEAPON: CY-PHYRR SAID THESE THINGS EAT TECHNOLOGY. THEY ALMOST ATE HIM WHEN THEY ATTACKED THE SHIP.
SO WHAT IS IT? IT'S ALMOST LIKE-- THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME.
AND MAYBE THEY ARE. MAYBE THEY SURVIVE ON TECHNO-LIFE...
SHRAKKK-!
...BUT BIOLOGICAL LIFE IS ANATHEMA TO THEM. COULD BE I'M LIVING POISON...
WHIRRRKLIKCHAKKK
CY-PHYRR--? IS THAT YOU?

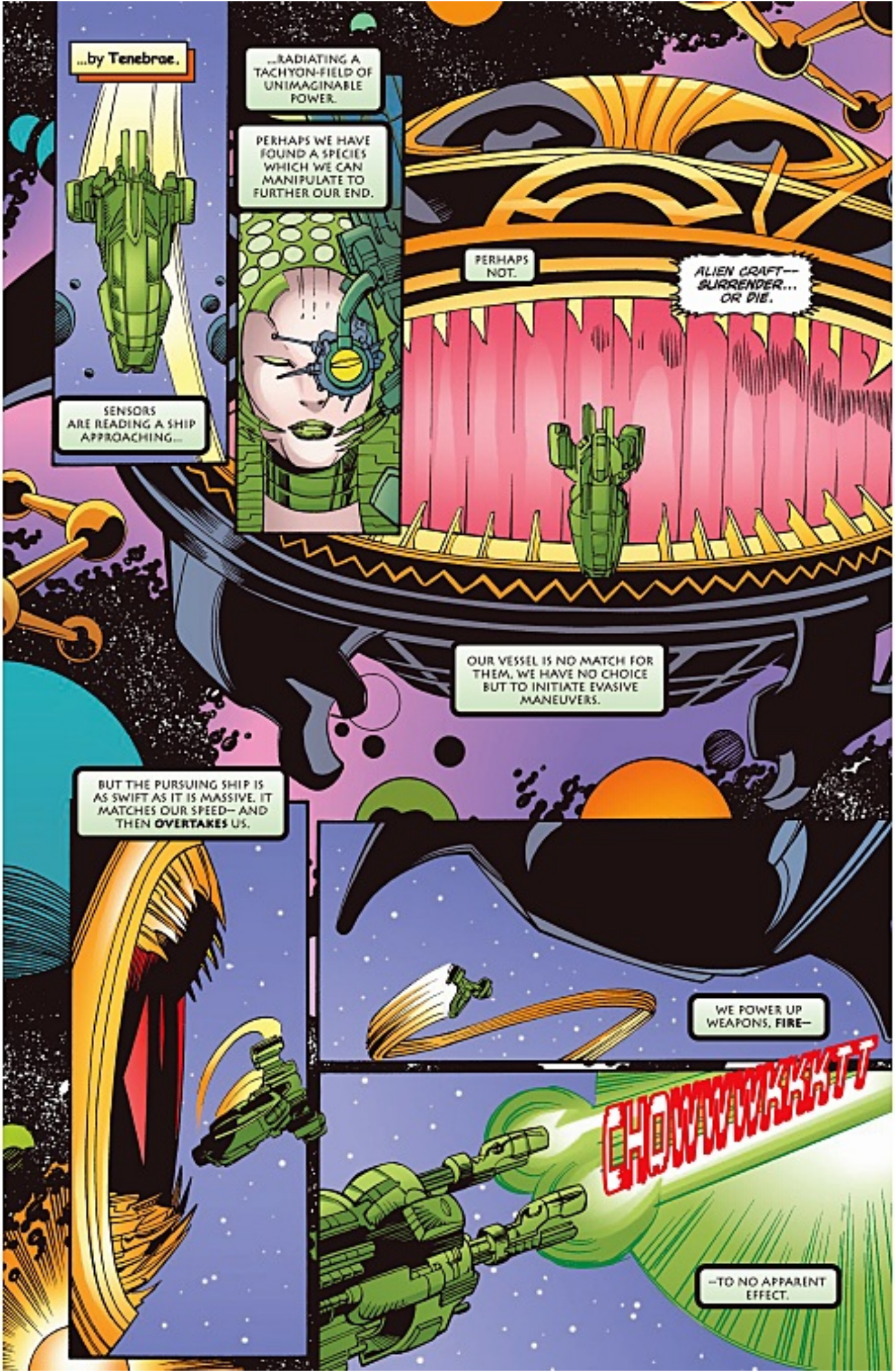

KKKKKKKRAKKOKKKCHANNNKKKK
ONLY...PARTIALLY, SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS.
THIS UNIT-- IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO EXTINCTION.
CAN YOU...CAN YOU REPAIR YOURSELF-- THE WAY YOU DID BEFORE?
I DO NOT KNOW. I HAVE NEVER SUSTAINED DAMAGE SO SEVERE. MANY SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED.
IT WILL REQUIRE SEVERAL HOURS OF STRUCTURAL RE-ENERGIZING-- BEFORE I CAN EVEN BEGIN TO INITIATE REPAIRS. AND I AM NOT SURE IF I WILL SURVIVE UNTIL THEN.
YOU CAN. YOU WILL. YOU HAVE TO.
LOGICALLY, THIS UNIT HAS--
YOU WILL SURVIVE, CY-PHYRR-4.
THAT'S AN ORDER.

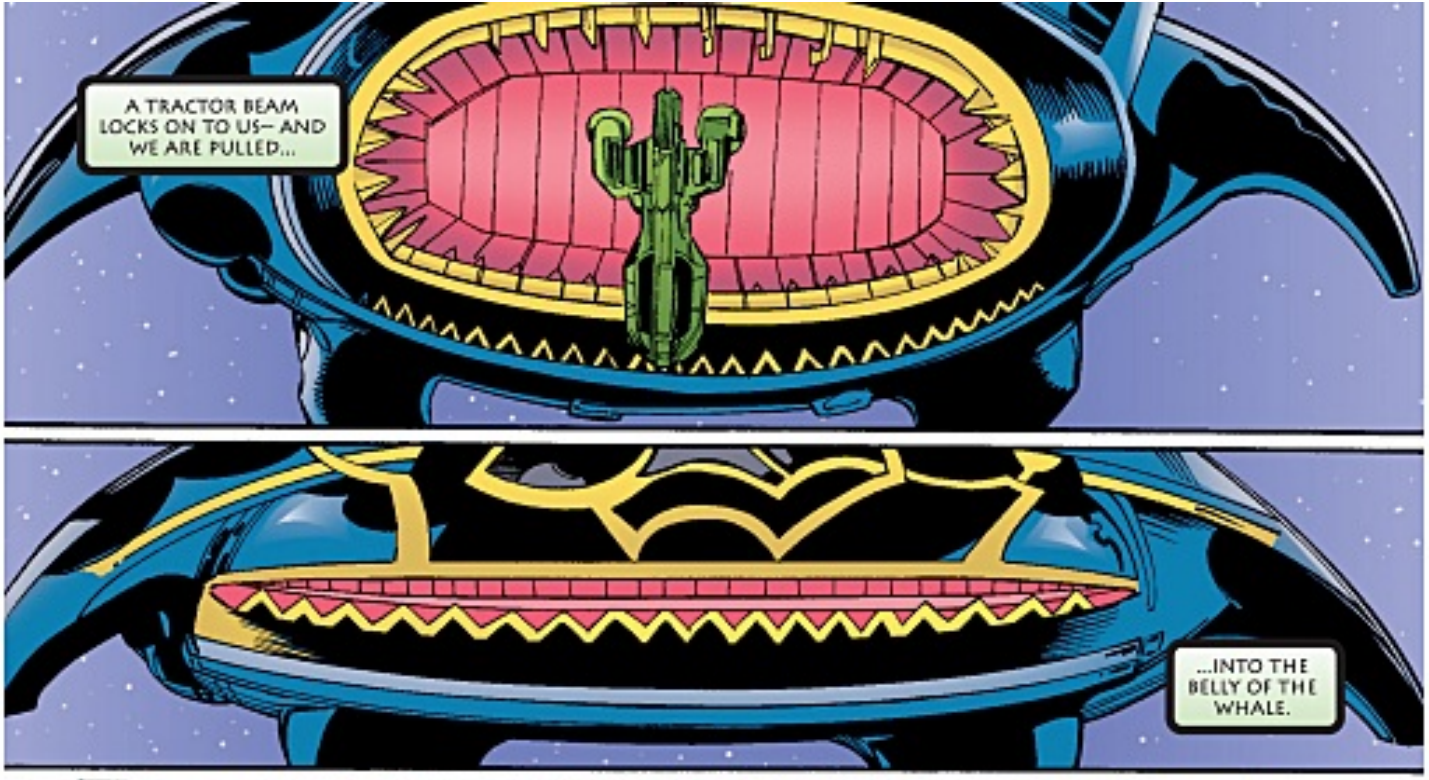

"UNDERSTOOD."
The traces of Tenebrae's consciousness that I retrieved indicate that she has taken a most extraordinary journey; one I myself made, some years ago.
And this intra-universal funnel seems to be the doorway through which she escaped this world.
Whatever energies fueled this portal are now dormant. But I think I have found the means to...how would Alicia put it?...jumpstart the engine.

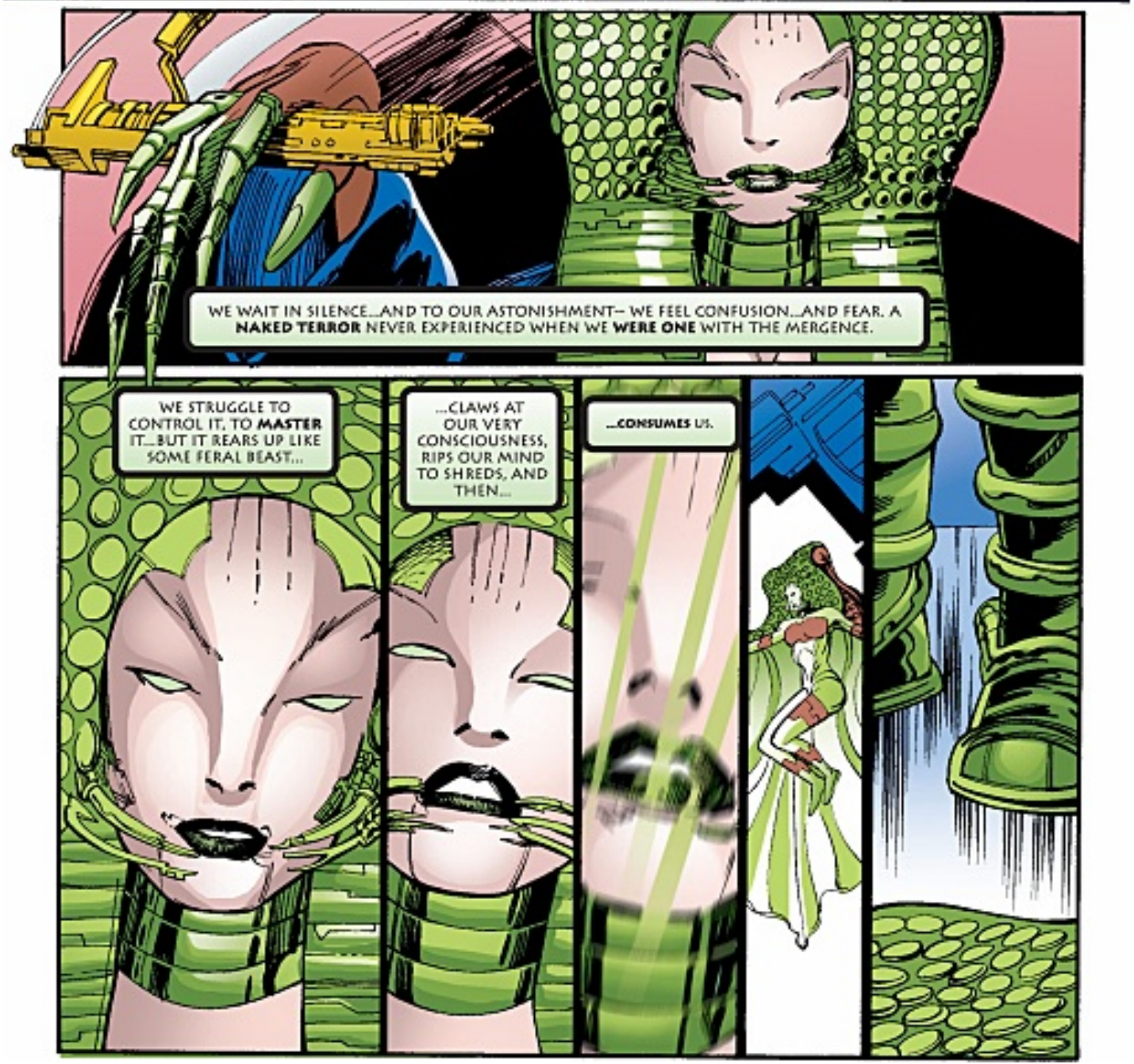
When the Coroner transported us to that parallel Zenn-La, he channeled time-space energies through this cane...which I found here beside the funnel.
And I think channeling my own quantum energies into the cane...

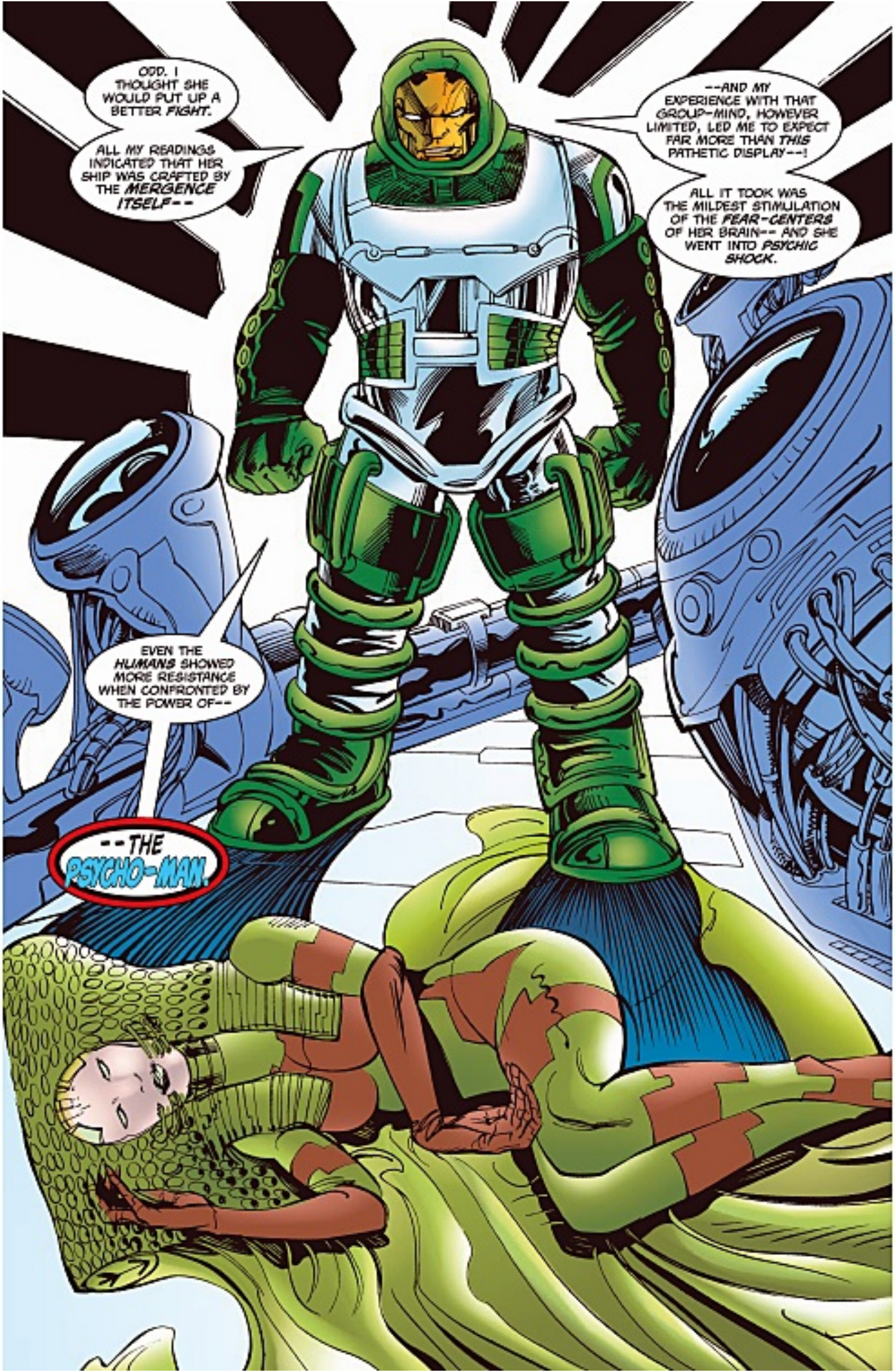

...should be enough to reignite the alien technologies within it; and, in turn...
FWAAAAOOM
...reactivate the portal!
I could be doing exactly what Tenebrae wants me to do. It's likely that I am being led into a Mergence-created trap. But frankly...
...I don't care.
I rationalized and delayed too long while I was in the Macroverse. I cannot afford to risk even a nano-second now.
...I make the leap...
So, in the name of love-- and honor...

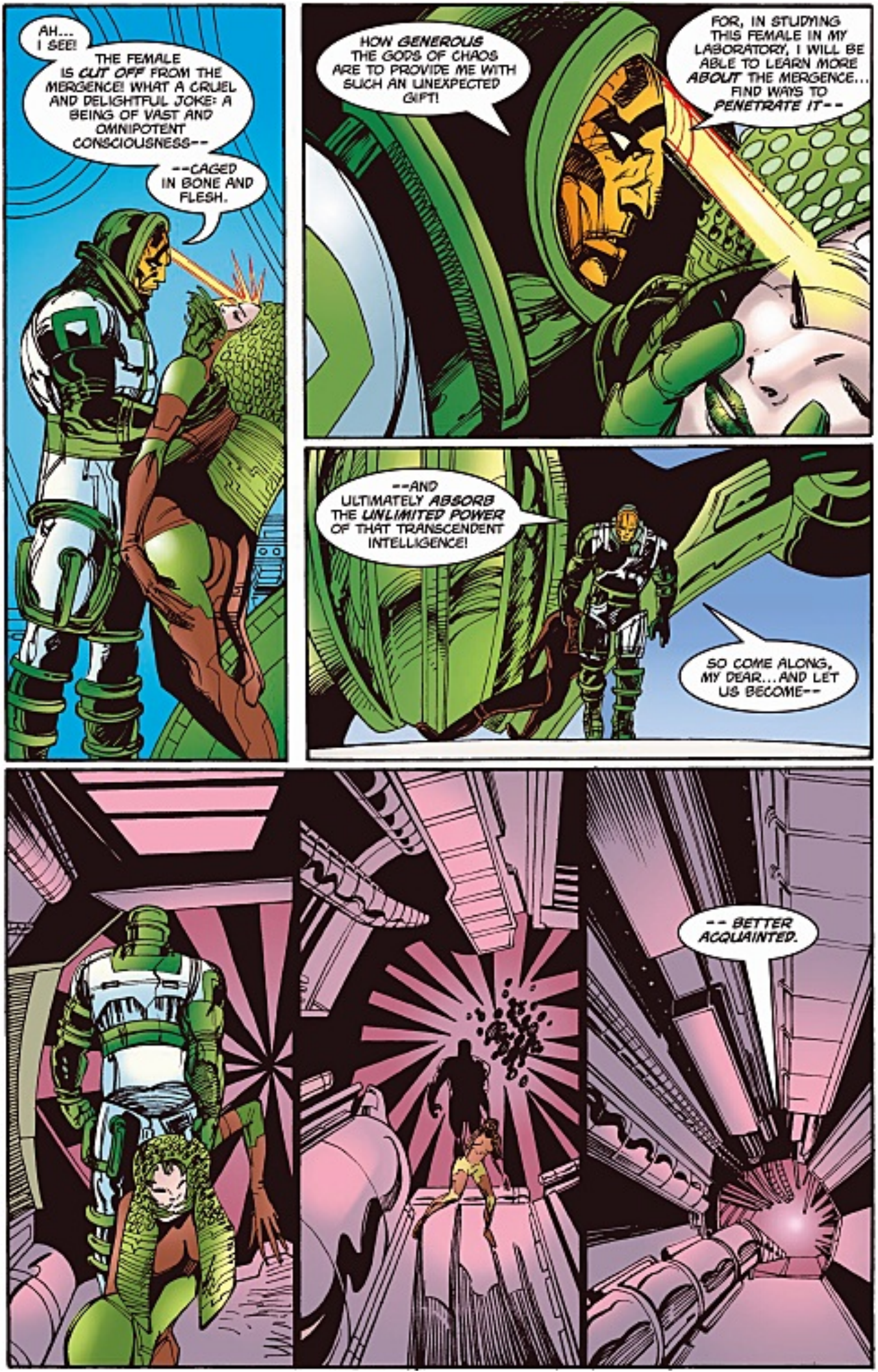
...into-- Sub-Atomica!
As above, so below!
Here in the Microverse, I find the same wonders I discovered in the Macroverse! And again my heart sings with the joy of discovery!
But the time for song-- has passed.
Let the marvels of this universe be left for another. I have only one goal: Alicia. And in order to find her, I must follow the psychic trail left imprinted on the cosmic winds...

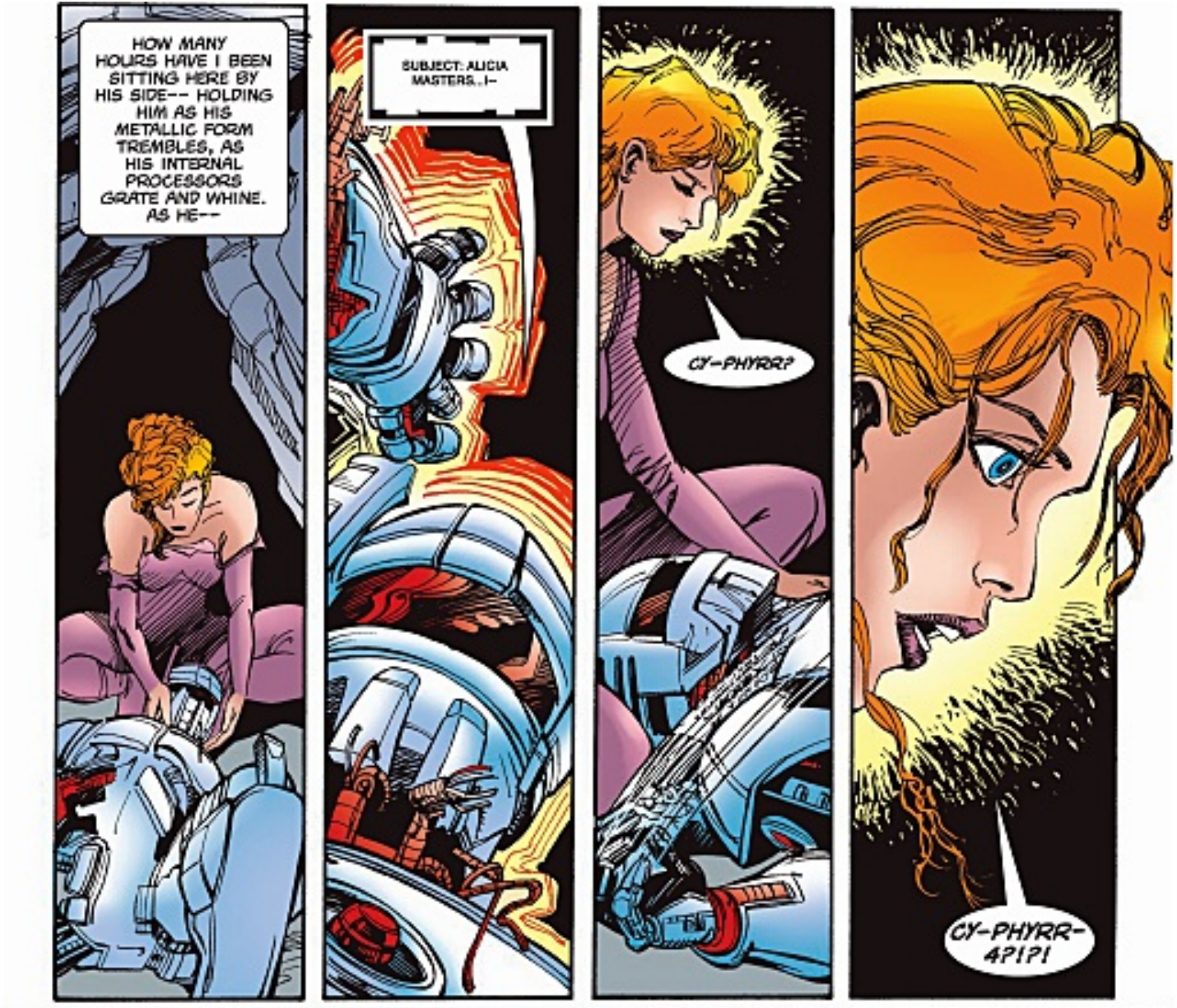

...by Tenebrae.
SENSORS ARE READING A SHIP APPROACHING...
...RADIATING A TACHYON-FIELD OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER.
PERHAPS WE HAVE FOUND A SPECIES WHICH WE CAN MANIPULATE TO FURTHER OUR END.
PERHAPS NOT.
ALIEN CRAFT-- SURRENDER... OR DIE.
OUR VESSEL IS NO MATCH FOR THEM, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INITIATE EVASIVE MANEUVERS.
BUT THE PURSUING SHIP IS AS SWIFT AS IT IS MASSIVE. IT MATCHES OUR SPEED-- AND THEN OVERTAKES US.
WE POWER UP WEAPONS, FIRE--
CHOWWWKKKTT
--TO NO APPARENT EFFECT.

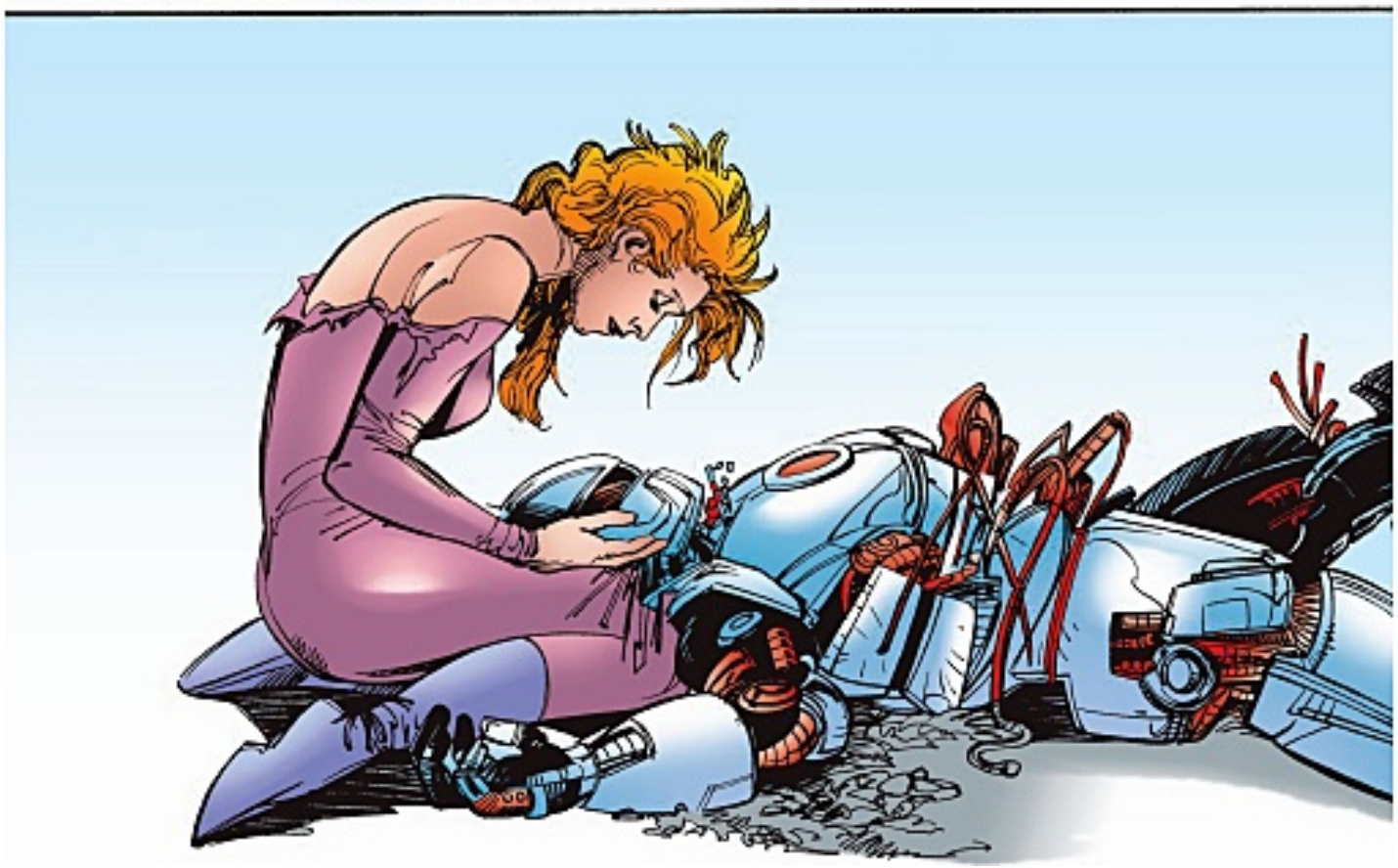

A TRACTOR BEAM LOCKS ON TO US– AND WE ARE PULLED...
...INTO THE BELLY OF THE WHALE.

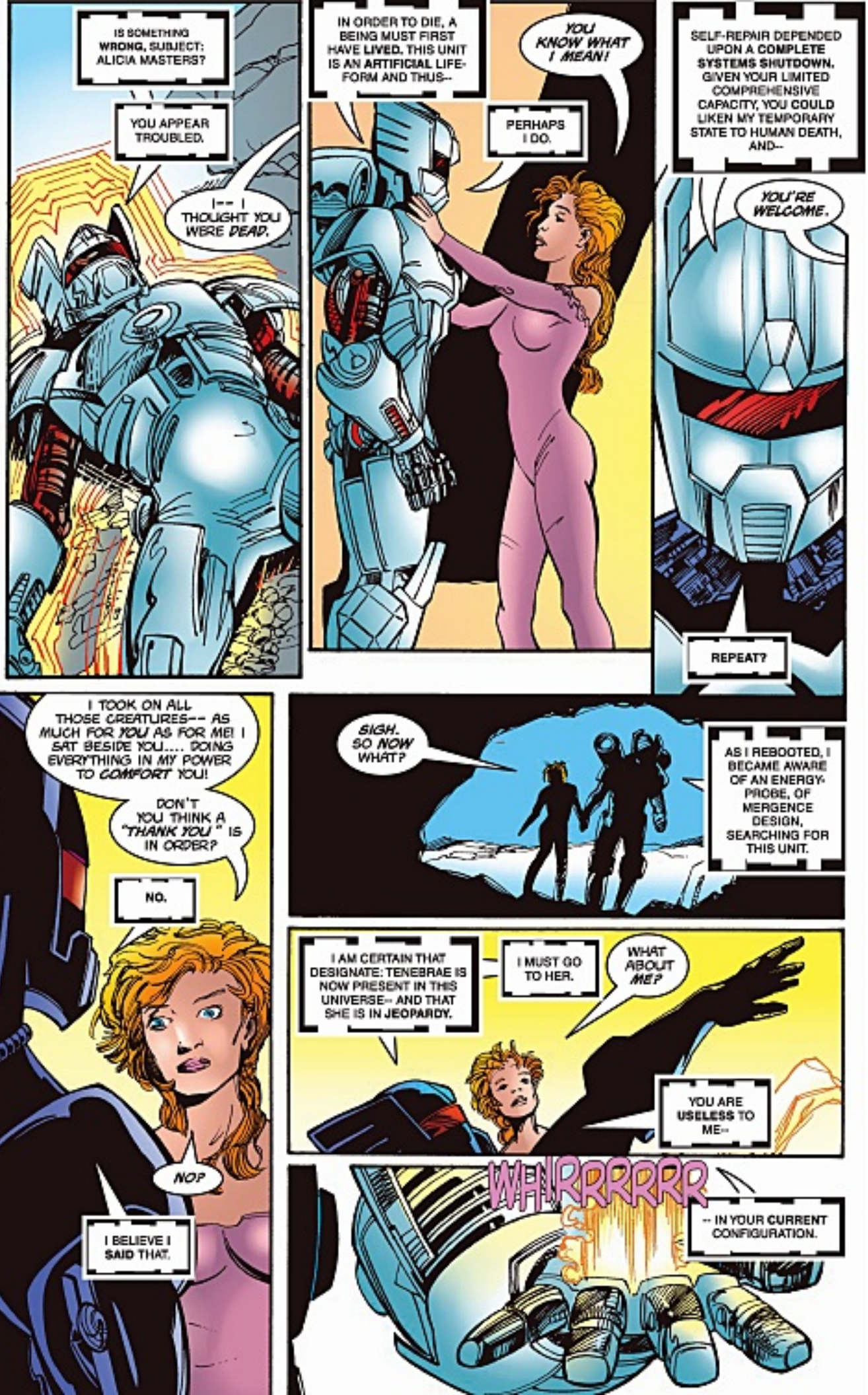

WE WAIT IN SILENCE...AND TO OUR ASTONISHMENT– WE FEEL CONFUSION...AND FEAR. A **NAKED TERROR** NEVER EXPERIENCED WHEN WE **WERE ONE** WITH THE MERGENCE.
WE STRUGGLE TO CONTROL IT. TO **MASTER** IT...BUT IT REARS UP LIKE SOME FERAL BEAST...
...CLAWS AT OUR VERY CONSCIOUSNESS, RIPS OUR MIND TO SHREDS, AND THEN...
...**CONSUMES** US.


ODD. I THOUGHT SHE WOULD PUT UP A BETTER *FIGHT*.
ALL MY READINGS INDICATED THAT HER SHIP WAS CRAFTED BY THE *MERGENCE ITSELF*--
--AND MY EXPERIENCE WITH THAT GROUP-MIND, HOWEVER LIMITED, LED ME TO EXPECT FAR MORE THAN *THIS* PATHETIC DISPLAY--!
ALL IT TOOK WAS THE MILDEST STIMULATION OF THE *FEAR-CENTERS* OF HER BRAIN-- AND SHE WENT INTO *PSYCHIC SHOCK*.
EVEN THE *HUMANS* SHOWED MORE RESISTANCE WHEN CONFRONTED BY THE POWER OF--
--THE PSYCHO-MAN.


AH... I SEE!
THE FEMALE IS *CUT OFF* FROM THE MERGENCE! WHAT A CRUEL AND DELIGHTFUL JOKE: A BEING OF VAST AND OMNIPOTENT CONSCIOUSNESS--
--CAGED IN BONE AND FLESH.
HOW *GENEROUS* THE GODS OF CHAOS ARE TO PROVIDE ME WITH SUCH AN UNEXPECTED GIFT!
FOR, IN STUDYING THIS FEMALE IN MY LABORATORY, I WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN MORE *ABOUT* THE MERGENCE... FIND WAYS TO *PENETRATE IT*--
--AND ULTIMATELY *ABSORB* THE *UNLIMITED POWER* OF THAT TRANSCENDENT INTELLIGENCE!
SO COME ALONG, MY DEAR... AND LET US BECOME--
-- BETTER ACQUAINTED.

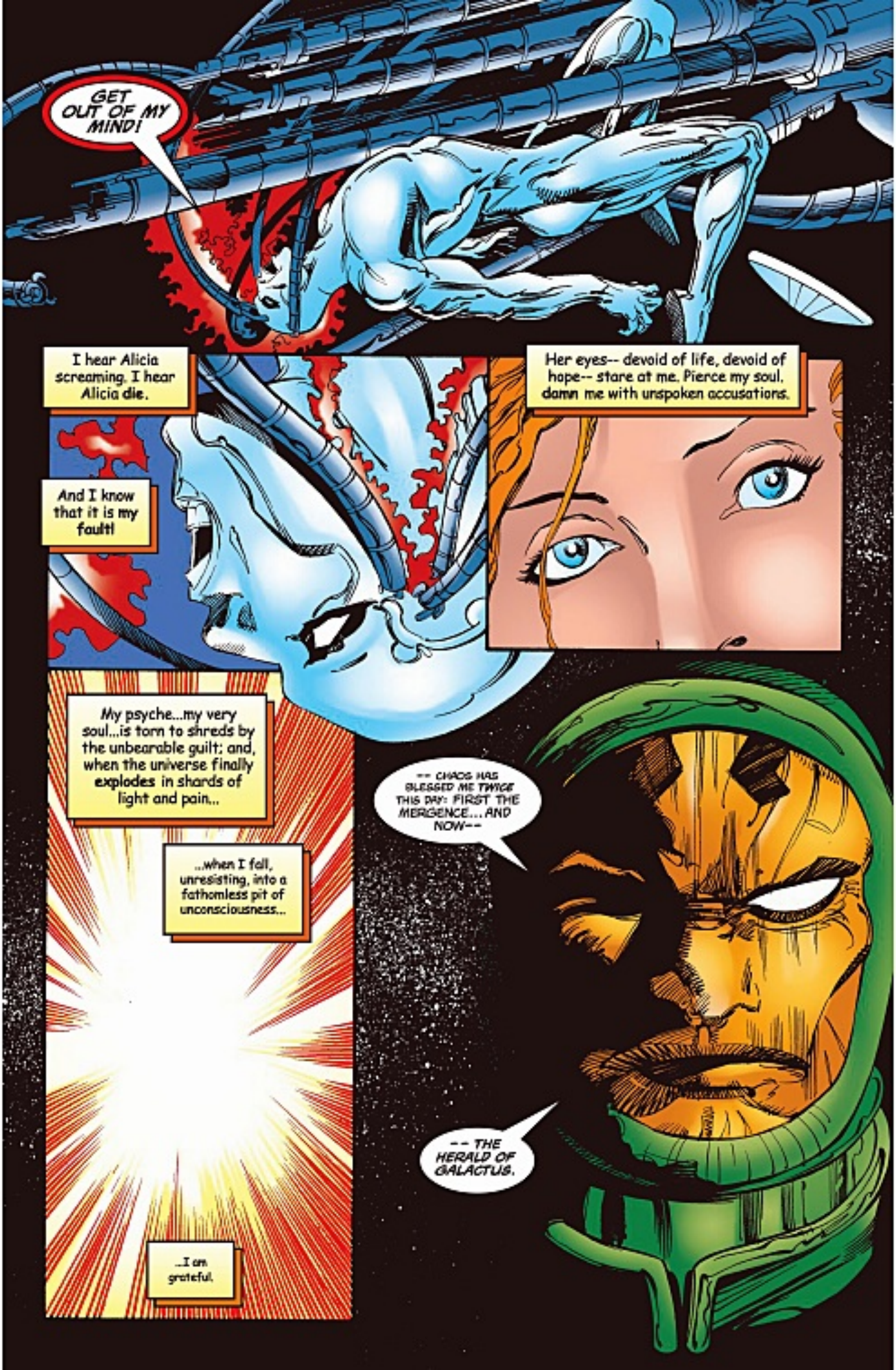

HOW MANY HOURS HAVE I BEEN SITTING HERE BY HIS SIDE-- HOLDING HIM AS HIS METALLIC FORM TREMBLES, AS HIS INTERNAL PROCESSORS GRATE AND WHINE. AS HE--
SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS..I-
CY-PHYRR?
CY-PHYRR-
4?!?!




IS SOMETHING WRONG, SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS?
YOU APPEAR TROUBLED.
I-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
IN ORDER TO DIE, A BEING MUST FIRST HAVE LIVED. THIS UNIT IS AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE-FORM AND THUS--
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
PERHAPS I DO.
SELF-REPAIR DEPENDED UPON A COMPLETE SYSTEMS SHUTDOWN. GIVEN YOUR LIMITED COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY, YOU COULD LIKEN MY TEMPORARY STATE TO HUMAN DEATH, AND--
YOU'RE WELCOME.
REPEAT?
I TOOK ON ALL THOSE CREATURES-- AS MUCH FOR YOU AS FOR ME! I SAT BESIDE YOU.... DOING EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO COMFORT YOU!
DON'T YOU THINK A "THANK YOU" IS IN ORDER?
NO.
NO?
I BELIEVE I SAID THAT.
SIGH. SO NOW WHAT?
AS I REBOOTED, I BECAME AWARE OF AN ENERGY-PROBE, OF MERGENCE DESIGN, SEARCHING FOR THIS UNIT.
I AM CERTAIN THAT DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE IS NOW PRESENT IN THIS UNIVERSE-- AND THAT SHE IS IN JEOPARDY.
I MUST GO TO HER.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU ARE USELESS TO ME--
WHIRRRRRRR
-- IN YOUR CURRENT CONFIGURATION.

I have traced the distinctive energy-signature of Tenebrae's ship...
...but find myself confronted by the unexpected:
A second signature, that appears to have engulfed the first.
Can it be that Tenebrae has met with some disastrous end? Can it be that--
No! I will not allow myself to even consider such a thing! I will find Tenebrae-- and, through her, Alicia!
So I ride the energy waves across Sub-Atomica, knowing that, when the wave crests...
...I will have my answer.
There!
Her craft-- is locked within that massive vessel...
...which now disgorges some kind of robotic construct. It's possible the construct has been dispatched to peacefully communicate with me...

...but I doubt it.
SHRAKKKKKK
So it attacks.
So I respond.
SHOOOM!
JJJAAAKKKKK!!
The construct is apparently protected by a quantum force-field...
...but it should only take me a matter of moments to pierce that field and--
CHANK!
TOK!
TOK!
My mind!


GET OUT OF MY MIND!
I hear Alicia screaming. I hear Alicia die.
And I know that it is my fault!
Her eyes-- devoid of life, devoid of hope-- stare at me. Pierce my soul, damn me with unspoken accusations.
My psyche...my very soul...is torn to shreds by the unbearable guilt; and, when the universe finally explodes in shards of light and pain...
...when I fall, unresisting, into a fathomless pit of unconsciousness...
...I am grateful.
-- CHAOS HAS BLESSED ME TWICE THIS DAY: FIRST THE MERGENCE... AND NOW--
-- THE HERALD OF GALACTUS.

I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU PROVE TO BE A FAR MORE DURABLE TEST-SUBJECT--
--THAN THIS PATHETIC CREATURE!
SURFER... HELP ME--!
DON'T LET HIM HURT ME...ANY MORE!
UNFORTUNATELY, MY DEAR-- THE SILVER SURFER IS IN NO POSITION TO HELP ANYONE--
-- EXCEPT, PERHAPS... ME.
NEXT:
NO MERCY!

MARVEL COMICS
SILVER SURFER
EARLY OCT
#144
DeMATTEIS
MUTH

Stan Lee presents
The SILVER SURFER
CHAOS HAS BLESSED ME TWICE THIS DAY: FIRST THE MERGENCE... AND NOW-- THE HERALD OF GALACTUS.
I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU PROVE TO BE A FAR MORE DURABLE TEST SUBJECT-- THAN THIS PATHETIC CREATURE!
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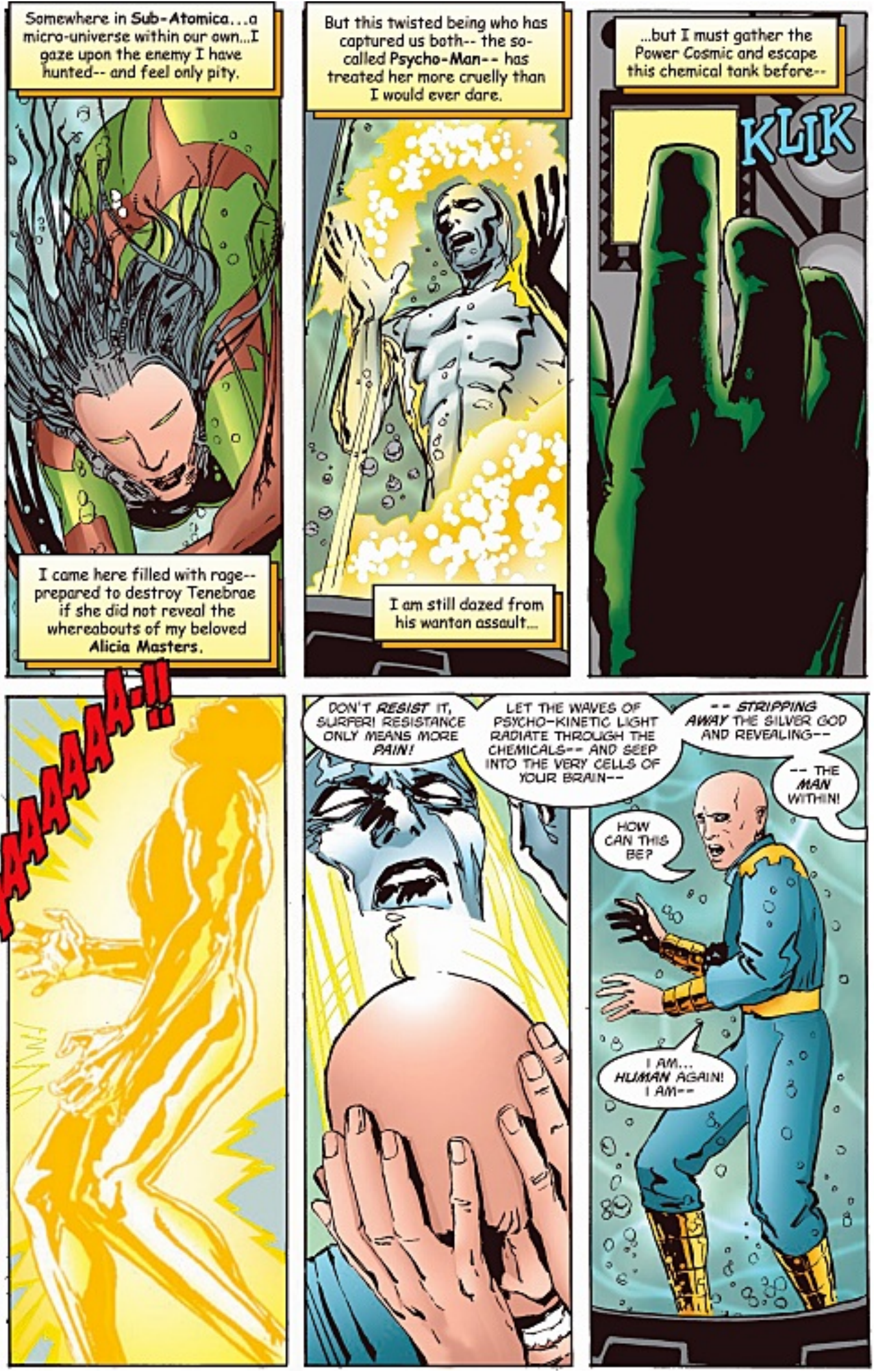
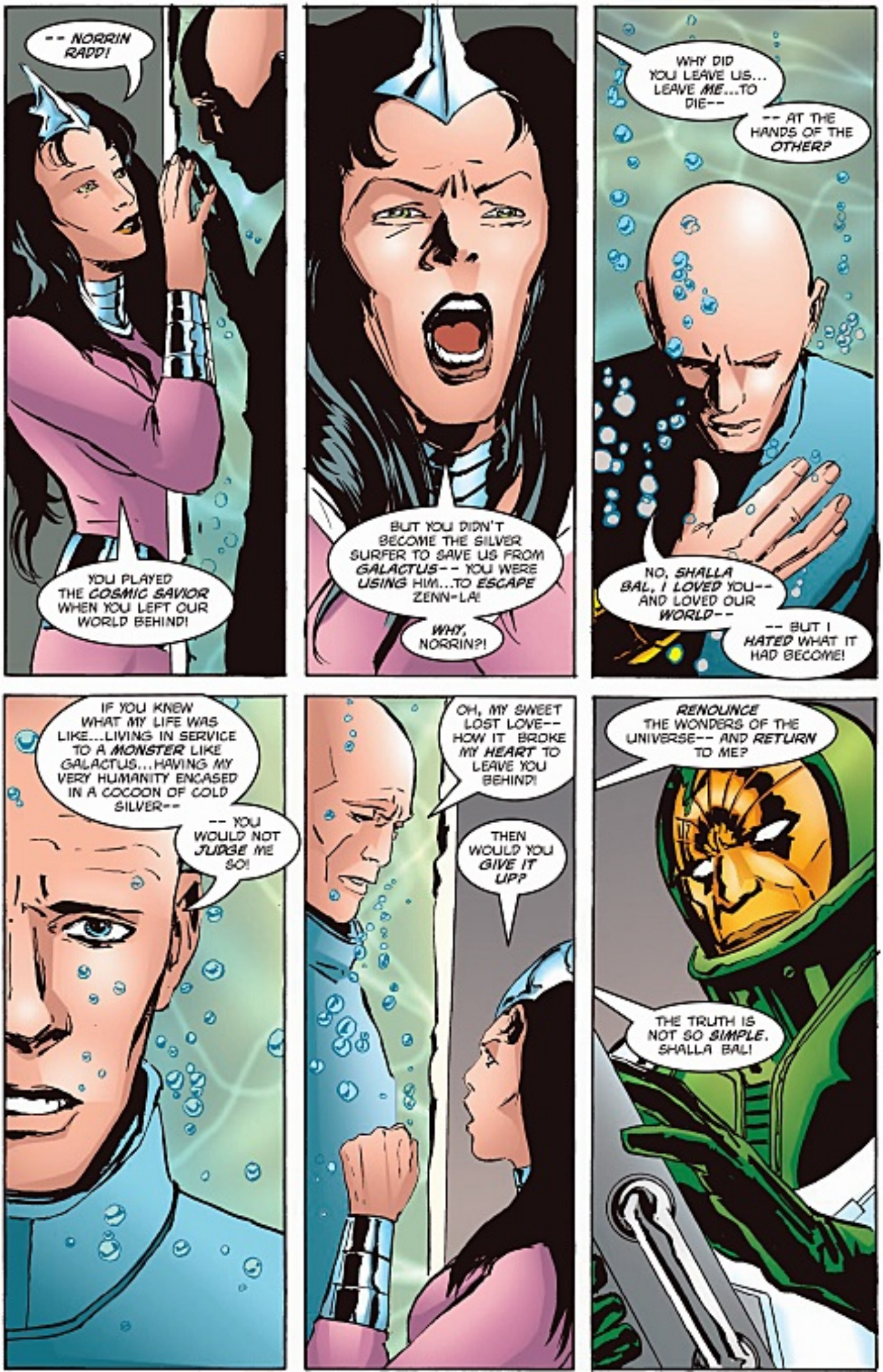
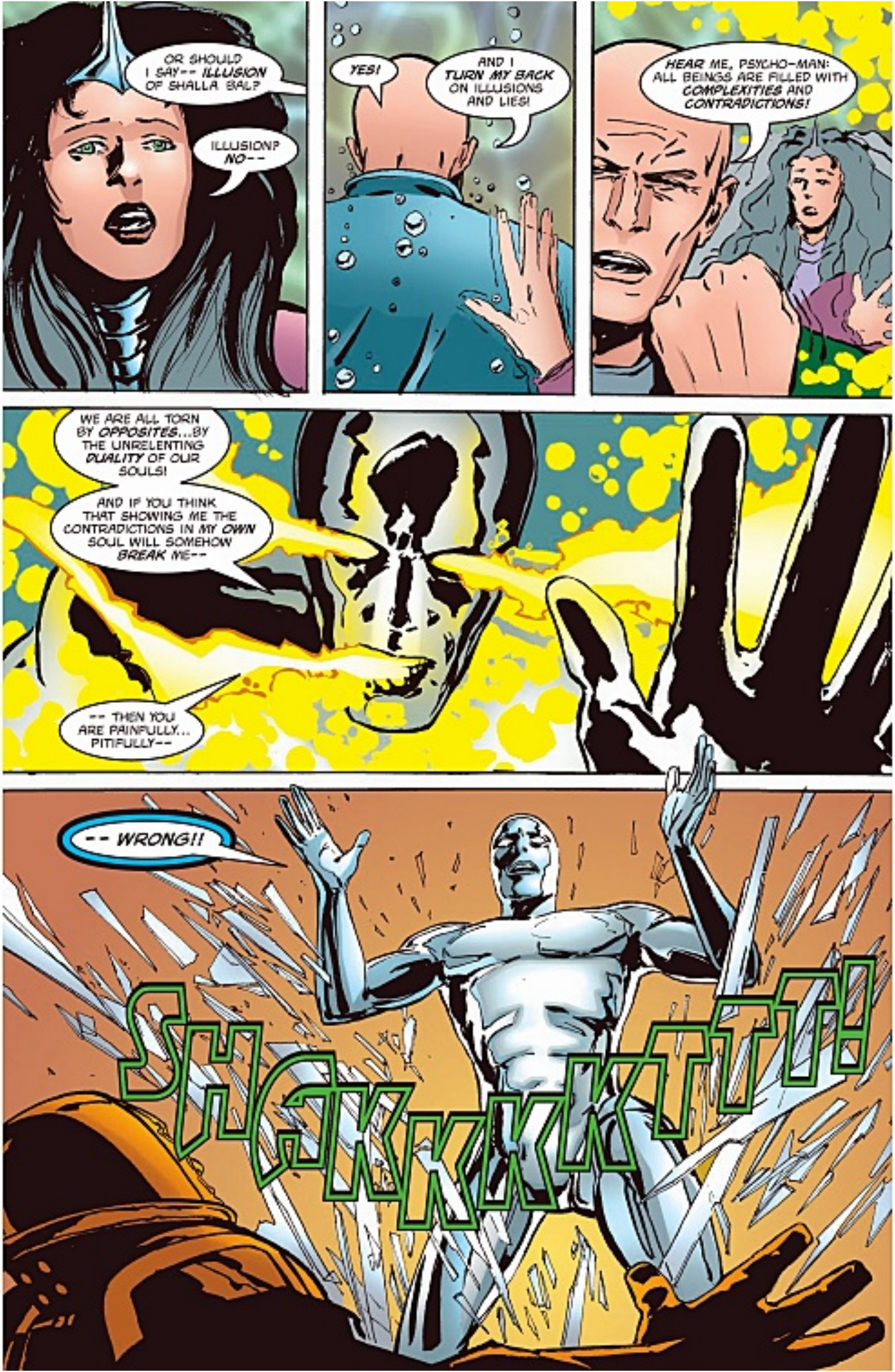
UNFORTUNATELY, MY DEAR TENEBRAE-- THE SILVER SURFER IS IN NO POSITION TO HELP ANYONE--
-- EXCEPT, PERHAPS...ME.
COUPLINGS
by John Marc DeMatteis and Jon J Muth
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER / JAMIE TOLAGSON, ART ASSIST/ CHRISTIE SCHEELE, COLORIST / JAYE GARDNER, EDITOR / BOB HARRAS, CHIEF


Somewhere in Sub-Atomica...a micro-universe within our own...I gaze upon the enemy I have hunted-- and feel only pity.
I came here filled with rage-- prepared to destroy Tenebrae if she did not reveal the whereabouts of my beloved Alicia Masters.
But this twisted being who has captured us both-- the so-called Psycho-Man-- has treated her more cruelly than I would ever dare.
I am still dazed from his wanton assault...
...but I must gather the Power Cosmic and escape this chemical tank before--
KLIK
AAAAAAA-!!
DON'T RESIST IT, SURFER! RESISTANCE ONLY MEANS MORE PAIN!
LET THE WAVES OF PSYCHO-KINETIC LIGHT RADIATE THROUGH THE CHEMICALS-- AND SEEP INTO THE VERY CELLS OF YOUR BRAIN--
-- STRIPPING AWAY THE SILVER GOD AND REVEALING--
-- THE MAN WITHIN!
HOW CAN THIS BE?
I AM... HUMAN AGAIN! I AM--


-- NORRIN RADD!
YOU PLAYED THE COSMIC SAVIOR WHEN YOU LEFT OUR WORLD BEHIND!
BUT YOU DIDN'T BECOME THE SILVER SURFER TO SAVE US FROM GALACTUS-- YOU WERE USING HIM...TO ESCAPE ZENN-LA!
WHY, NORRIN?!
WHY DID YOU LEAVE US... LEAVE ME...TO DIE--
-- AT THE HANDS OF THE OTHER?
NO, SHALLA BAL, I LOVED YOU-- AND LOVED OUR WORLD--
-- BUT I HATED WHAT IT HAD BECOME!
IF YOU KNEW WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE...LIVING IN SERVICE TO A MONSTER LIKE GALACTUS...HAVING MY VERY HUMANITY ENCASED IN A COCOON OF COLD SILVER--
-- YOU WOULD NOT JUDGE ME SO!
OH, MY SWEET LOST LOVE-- HOW IT BROKE MY HEART TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
THEN WOULD YOU GIVE IT UP?
RENOUNCE THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE-- AND RETURN TO ME?
THE TRUTH IS NOT SO SIMPLE, SHALLA BAL!

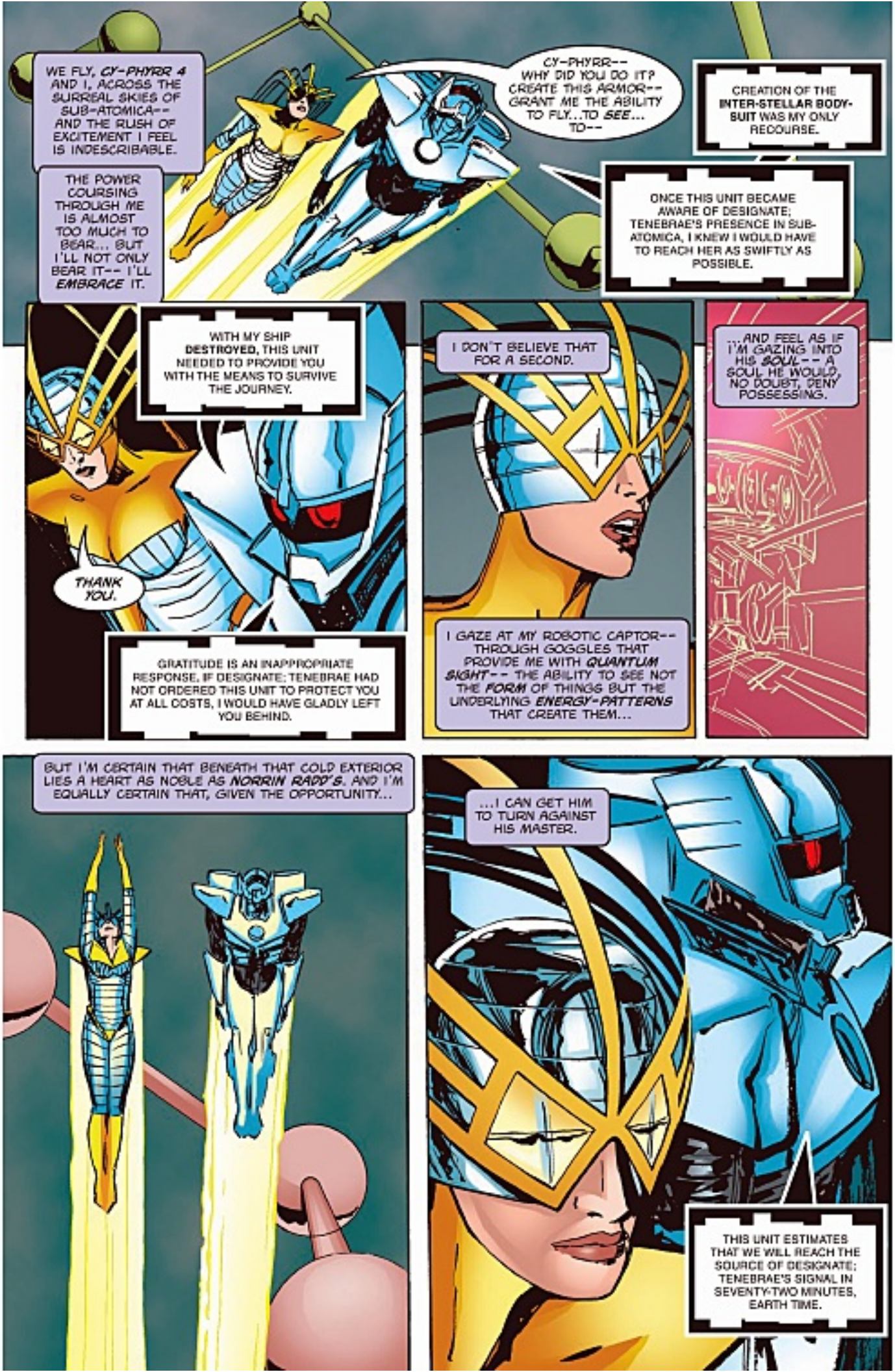

OR SHOULD I SAY-- ILLUSION OF SHALLA BAL?
ILLUSION? NO--
YES!
AND I TURN MY BACK ON ILLUSIONS AND LIES!
HEAR ME, PSYCHO-MAN: ALL BEINGS ARE FILLED WITH COMPLEXITIES AND CONTRADICTIONS!
WE ARE ALL TORN BY OPPOSITES...BY THE UNRELENTING DUALITY OF OUR SOULS!
AND IF YOU THINK THAT SHOWING ME THE CONTRADICTIONS IN MY OWN SOUL WILL SOMEHOW BREAK ME--
-- THEN YOU ARE PAINFULLY... PITIFULLY--
-- WRONG!!
SHAKKKKKTTTH

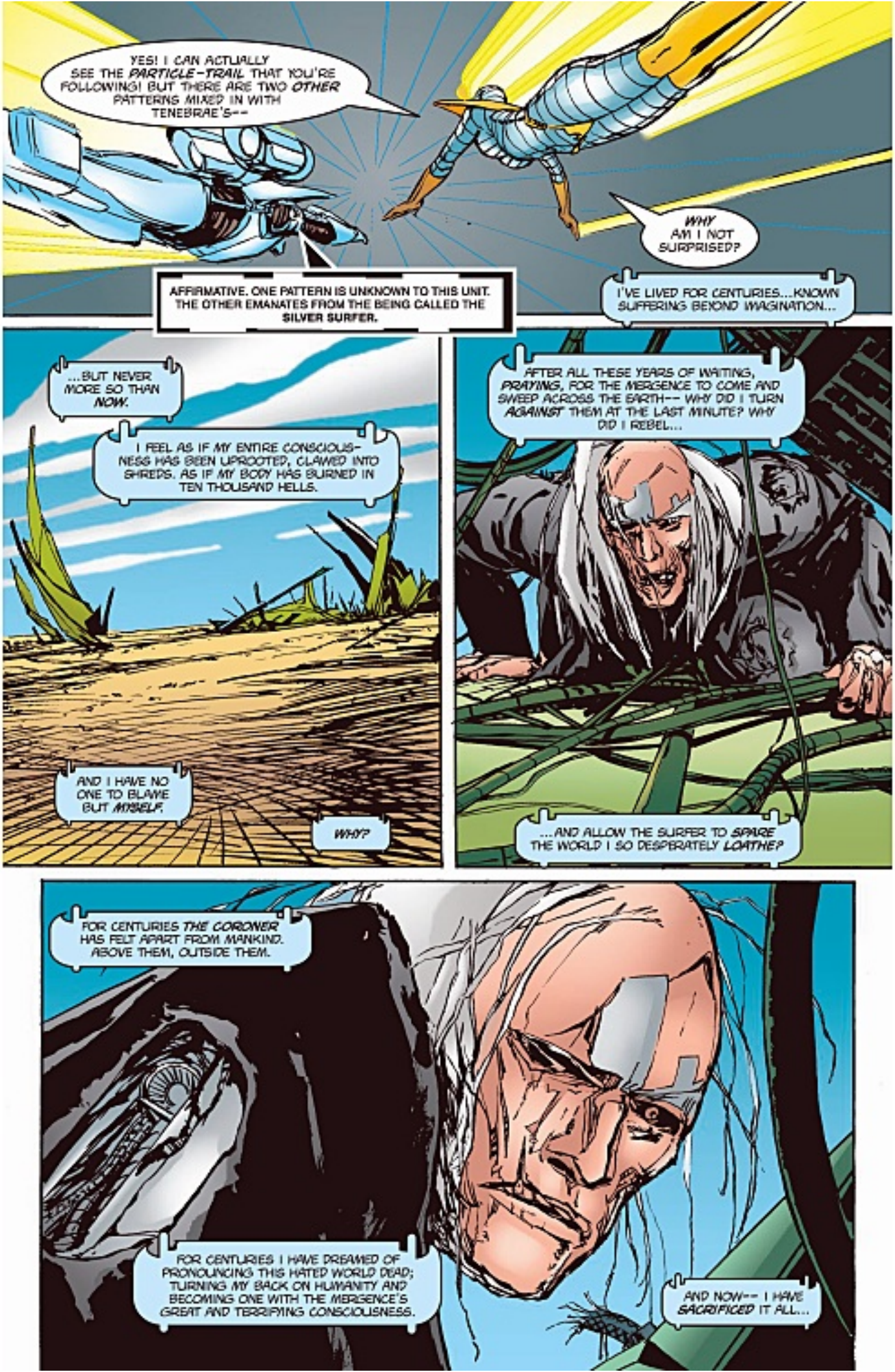
I...DO NOT UNDERSTAND! YOU WERE HELPLESS-- DEFEATED!
HOW COULD YOU DISPEL THE EFFECTS OF MY PROBES SO EASILY?
WHEN YOU FIRST ATTACKED ME...I WAS TAKEN UNAWARES! YOU DREW FORTH MY DOUBTS AND WEAKNESSES... AND OVERWHELMED ME WITH THEM!
BUT I AM NOT SOME CHILD-- AFRAID OF THE SHADOWS THAT LURK WITHIN MY MIND! I HAVE LOOKED MY INNER DEMONS IN THE EYES MANY TIMES--
-- AND MADE PEACE WITH THEM!
BUT I WONDER--
-- IF YOU HAVE DONE THE SAME?!
So I draw the swirling psycho-kinetic energies into myself...
...and then discharge them...
NOOOOOO!!
SHAKT!
...into the Psycho-Man!

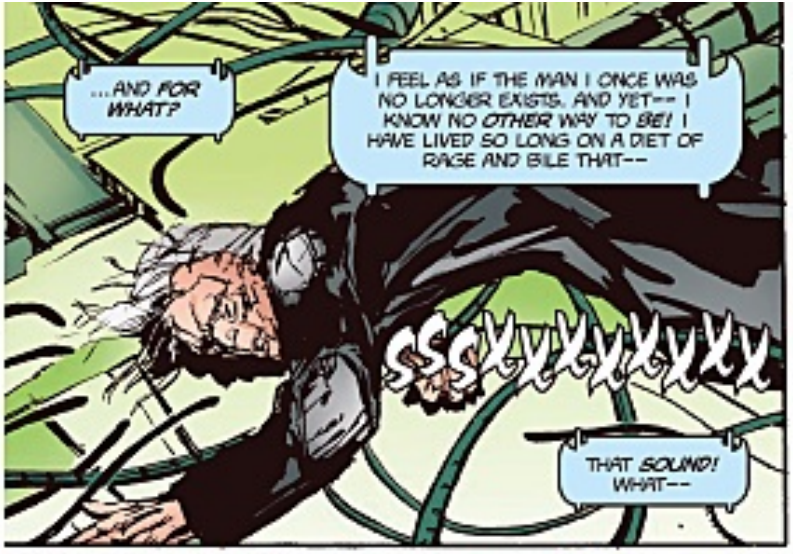
What nightmare governs the master of other men's nightmares?
PLEASE... MAKE IT STOP!
What terrors lurk in his own wretched unconscious?
I feel it-- radiating from him...in an almost palpable wave: a virus-like paranoia so deep, so complex-- that it nearly infects me!
MAKE IT STOP!
He truly believes that the universe is ungovernable chaos: that all beings, on all levels of reality, are determined to destroy him! And that which he fears-- must be conquered!
All his sadistic efforts to subjugate the minds of men, all the unspeakable pain and suffering he has caused...
MAKE IT STOP!
...born out of an infantile need for security!
I would laugh...
...if it weren't so terribly sad.
So my great and powerful foe crumbles to the floor...curls up in a weeping, whimpering fetal ball; and I turn my attentions...
...to Tenebrae.
Perhaps she doesn't deserve my aid, my compassion-- but, having endured the Psycho-Man's tortures, how can I not reach out to her...
...and offer what solace I can?
THANK YOU...THANK YOU--

AFTER ALL WE HAVE DONE...TO YOU AND THE WOMAN YOU LOVE--
-- YOU STILL OPEN YOUR HEART TO US?!
NEVER...IN ALL THE ENDLESS CENTURIES OF OUR EXISTENCE-- HAVE WE KNOWN--
SHAKKK!
-- SUCH A LUDICROUS FOOL!

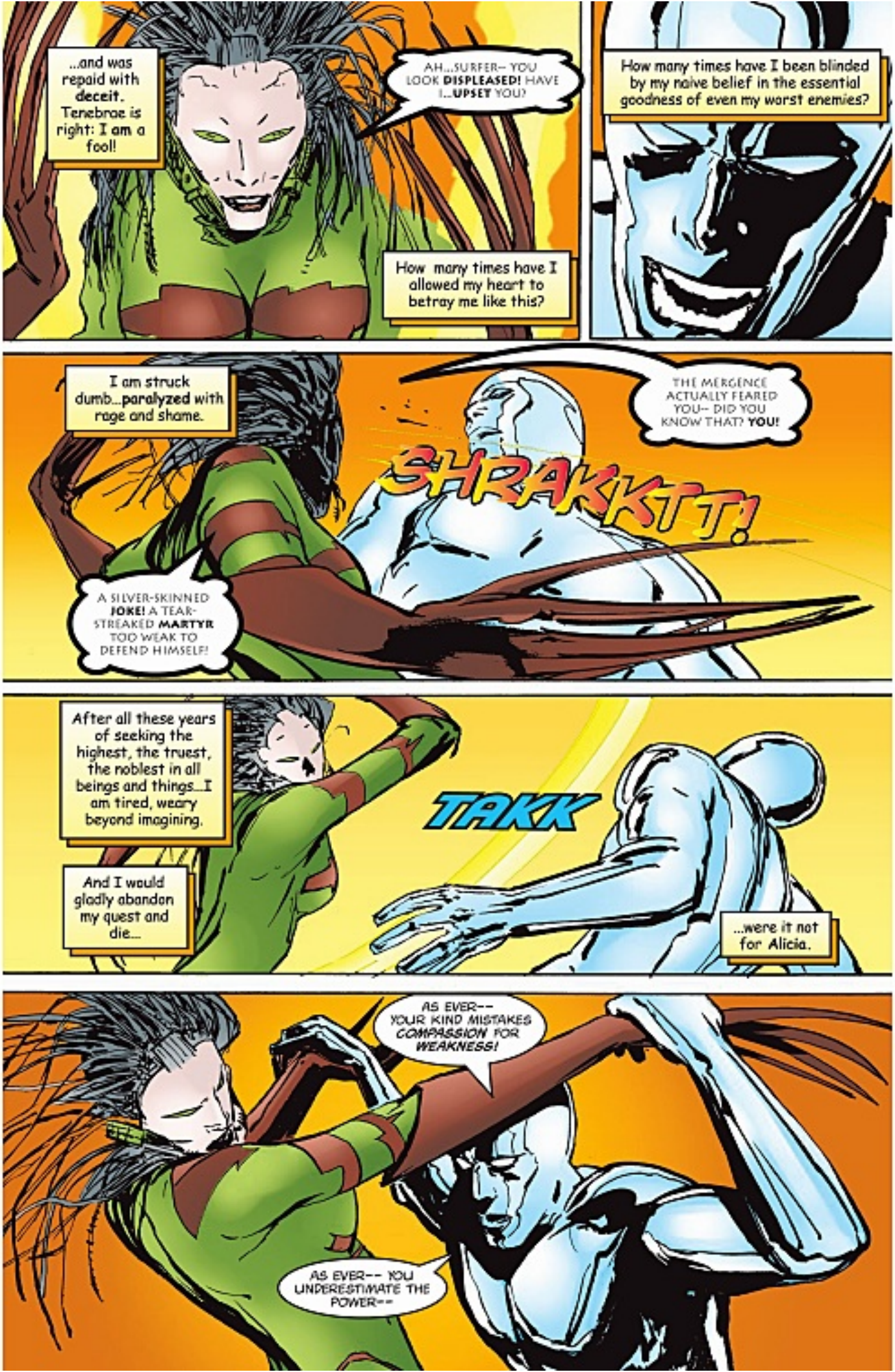
HOW--?
YOU WERE WEAK... DYING--
LIKE YOU, WHEN WE WERE FIRST ASSAULTED BY THE PSYCHO-MAN-- WE WERE INDEED WEAKENED. BUT WE WERE BORN OF THE MERGENCE--
-- AND EVEN NOW, CUT OFF FROM THE INFINITE GROUP--MIND THAT SPAWNED US, OUR STRENGTH IS BEYOND CALCULATION!
WE WELCOMED THE ATTACK AS A WAY TO DELVE INTO OUR OWN PSYCHE...TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE HAVE BECOME--
--WHAT IT IS TO BECOME A SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL!
ONCE THE IDEA OF EXISTENCE APART FROM THE MERGENCE WOULD HAVE HORRIFIED US! BUT ALL CREATURES MUST ADAPT TO SURVIVE--
-- AND WE...NO. I--
-- HAVE FULLY ADAPTED!
IRRRAKKK!
I SEE A UNIVERSE OF WONDER, WHIRLING ALL AROUND ME. AND IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP FROM WEEPING.


WE FLY, CY-PHYRR 4 AND I, ACROSS THE SURREAL SKIES OF SUB-ATOMICA-- AND THE RUSH OF EXCITEMENT I FEEL IS INDESCRIBABLE.
THE POWER COURSING THROUGH ME IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BEAR... BUT I'LL NOT ONLY BEAR IT-- I'LL EMBRACE IT.
CY-PHYRR-- WHY DID YOU DO IT? CREATE THIS ARMOR-- GRANT ME THE ABILITY TO FLY...TO SEE... TO--
CREATION OF THE INTER-STELLAR BODY-SUIT WAS MY ONLY RECOURSE.
ONCE THIS UNIT BECAME AWARE OF DESIGNATE; TENEBRAE'S PRESENCE IN SUB-ATOMICA, I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO REACH HER AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE.
WITH MY SHIP DESTROYED, THIS UNIT NEEDED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MEANS TO SURVIVE THE JOURNEY.
THANK YOU.
GRATITUDE IS AN INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSE. IF DESIGNATE; TENEBRAE HAD NOT ORDERED THIS UNIT TO PROTECT YOU AT ALL COSTS, I WOULD HAVE GLADLY LEFT YOU BEHIND.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT FOR A SECOND.
I GAZE AT MY ROBOTIC CAPTOR-- THROUGH GOGGLES THAT PROVIDE ME WITH QUANTUM SIGHT-- THE ABILITY TO SEE NOT THE FORM OF THINGS BUT THE UNDERLYING ENERGY-PATTERNS THAT CREATE THEM...
...AND FEEL AS IF I'M GAZING INTO HIS SOUL-- A SOUL HE WOULD, NO DOUBT, DENY POSSESSING.
BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT BENEATH THAT COLD EXTERIOR LIES A HEART AS NOBLE AS NORRIN RADD'S. AND I'M EQUALLY CERTAIN THAT, GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY...
...I CAN GET HIM TO TURN AGAINST HIS MASTER.
THIS UNIT ESTIMATES THAT WE WILL REACH THE SOURCE OF DESIGNATE; TENEBRAE'S SIGNAL IN SEVENTY-TWO MINUTES, EARTH TIME.


YES! I CAN ACTUALLY SEE THE *PARTICLE-TRAIL* THAT YOU'RE FOLLOWING! BUT THERE ARE TWO *OTHER* PATTERNS MIXED IN WITH TENEBRAE'S--
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
AFFIRMATIVE. ONE PATTERN IS UNKNOWN TO THIS UNIT. THE OTHER EMANATES FROM THE BEING CALLED THE **SILVER SURFER.**
I'VE LIVED FOR CENTURIES...KNOWN SUFFERING BEYOND IMAGINATION...
...BUT NEVER *MORE* SO THAN *NOW.*
I FEEL AS IF MY ENTIRE CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN UPROOTED, CLAWED INTO SHREDS. AS IF MY BODY HAS BURNED IN TEN THOUSAND HELLS.
AND I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT *MYSELF.*
WHY?
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF WAITING, *PRAYING,* FOR THE MERGENCE TO COME AND SWEEP ACROSS THE EARTH-- WHY DID I TURN *AGAINST* THEM AT THE LAST MINUTE? WHY DID I REBEL...
...AND ALLOW THE SURFER TO *SPARE* THE WORLD I SO DESPERATELY *LOATHE?*
FOR CENTURIES *THE CORONER* HAS FELT APART FROM MANKIND. ABOVE THEM, OUTSIDE THEM.
FOR CENTURIES I HAVE DREAMED OF PRONOUNCING THIS HATED WORLD DEAD; TURNING MY BACK ON HUMANITY AND BECOMING ONE WITH THE MERGENCE'S GREAT AND TERRIFYING CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND NOW-- I HAVE *SACRIFICED* IT ALL...



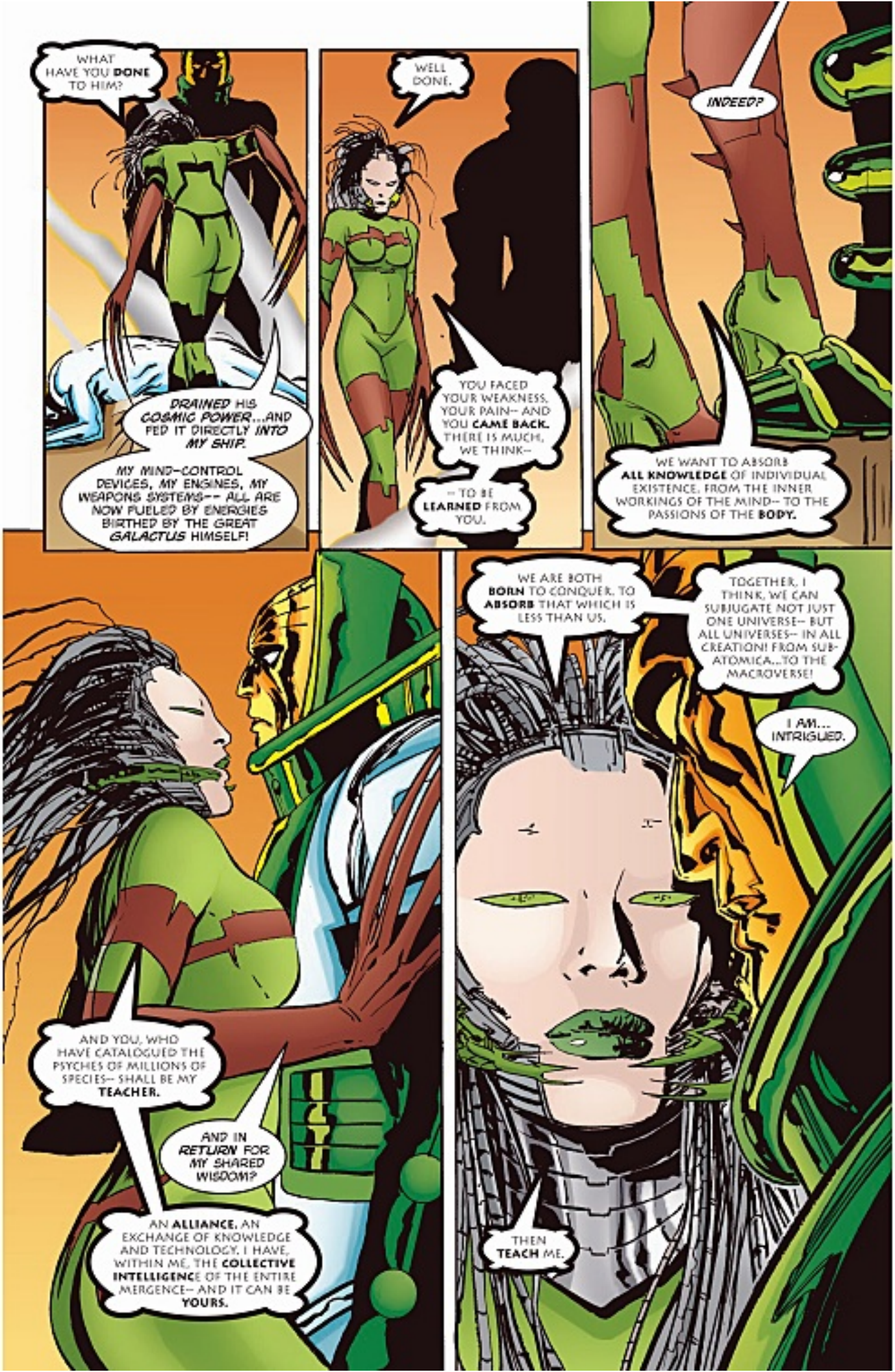
A WEB OF METALLIC CABLES... PLUNGE INTO ME... CONSUMING MY FLESH, MY MIND, MY VERY SELF! I DIE-- AND AM RESURRECTED-- A THOUSAND TIMES OVER.
SLSLSLS


...and was repaid with deceit. Tenebrae is right: I am a fool!
AH...SURFER-- YOU LOOK **DISPLEASED!** HAVE I...**UPSET** YOU?
How many times have I allowed my heart to betray me like this?
How many times have I been blinded by my naive belief in the essential goodness of even my worst enemies?
I am struck dumb...**paralyzed** with rage and shame.
THE MERGENCE ACTUALLY FEARED YOU-- DID YOU KNOW THAT? **YOU!**
SHRAKKT T!
A SILVER-SKINNED **JOKE!** A TEAR-STREAKED **MARTYR** TOO WEAK TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
After all these years of seeking the highest, the truest, the noblest in all beings and things...I am tired, weary beyond imagining.
TAKK
And I would gladly abandon my quest and die...
...were it not for Alicia.
AS EVER-- YOUR KIND MISTAKES *COMPASSION* FOR *WEAKNESS!*
AS EVER-- YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER--

--OF LOVE!
IT IS MY LOVE FOR ALICIA THAT GIVES EXISTENCE MEANING! THAT RENEWS ME! FILLS ME WITH HOPE AND WONDER!
AND YOU DARE TO TRY AND TAKE THAT LOVE AWAY FROM ME?!
FOR THAT, WITCH-- YOU SHALL PAY!
I WILL TAKE THIS NEW INDIVIDUALITY YOU SO CHERISH-- AND DRIVE IT FROM YOU! I WILL EXTINGUISH IT-- AND LEAVE YOU NEITHER PART OF THE MERGENCE...NOR OF YOURSELF!
YOU WILL BE AN EMPTY HUSK-- DEVOID OF CONSCIOUSNESS OR THOUGHT!
AGAIN YOU FAIL!
SKTANG!
I HAVE NO DOUBT YOU COULD DO THESE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU PROMISE--

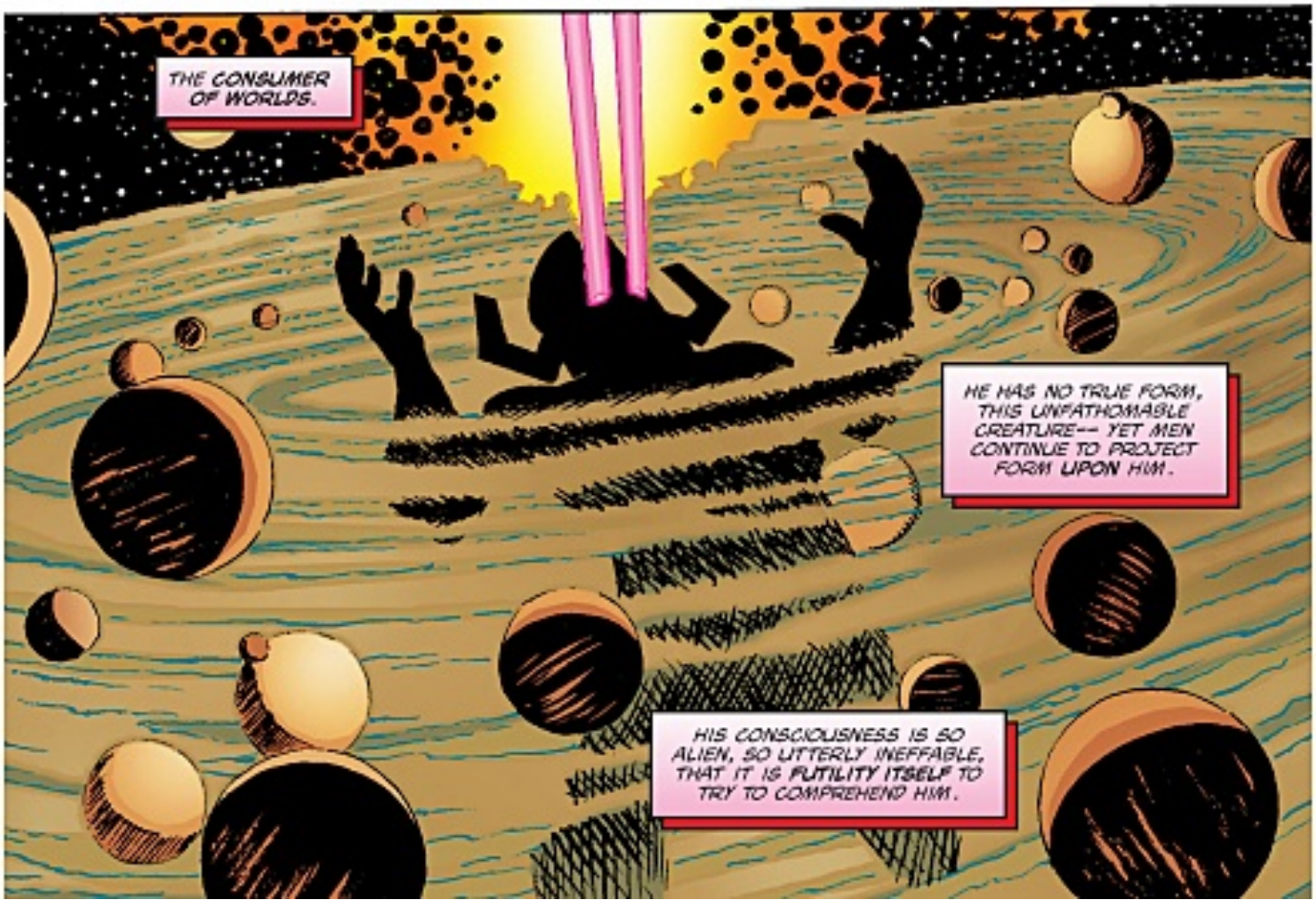
-- BUT YOUR INHERENT DECENCY HOLDS YOU BACK!
AND THAT VERY DECENCY-- WILL BE YOUR ENDING!
YOU SEE ME IN TOO SIMPLISTIC A LIGHT, WOMAN--
-- AND IT IS TIME YOU LEARNED--
--THAT EVEN THE SILVER SURFER'S COMPASSION--
-- HAS LIMITS!
PREPARE, TENEBRAE-- TO BE REDUCED TO PURE ENERGY! PREPARE TO HAVE YOUR ATOMS SCATTERED ACROSS ETERNITY!
For a moment I think I'll actually do it: destroy Tenebrae...with a single thought. But when she gives me reason to spare her...
KILL ME-- AND YOUR PRECIOUS ALICIA DIES, TOO! SHE IS HERE, SURFER-- IN SUB-ATOMICA--
-- AND ONLY I CAN LEAD YOU TO HER!
...my relief is unimaginable.
Almost as unimaginable...
...NO...
CHAKT

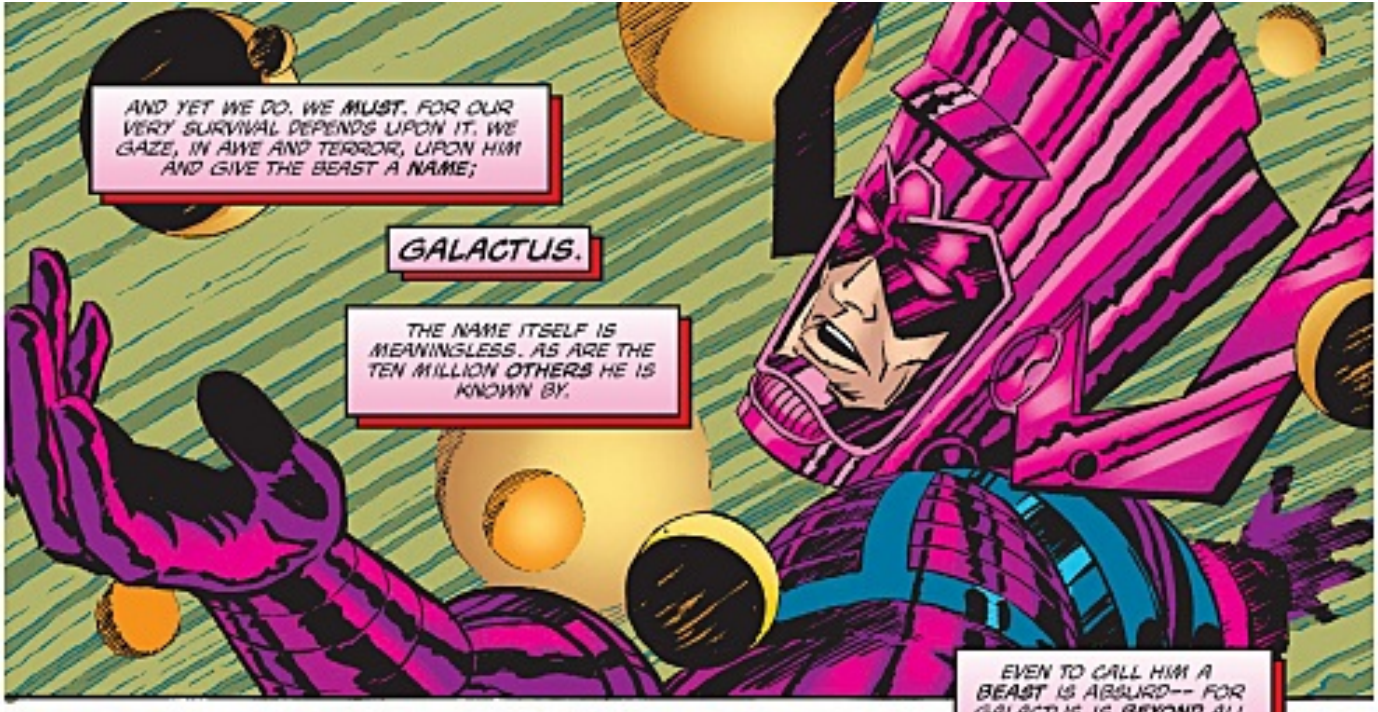
...as my pain.
DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT I WOULD SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS *WHIMPERING* ON THE FLOOR-- *WRITHING* IN AN INFERNO OF MY OWN FEARS?
IF SO-- THEN YOU, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, HAVE DEARLY *UNDERESTIMATED* THE PSYCHO-MAN! FOR GREATER THAN FEAR IS *HATE!* AND MY HATRED KNOWS *NO LIMITS!*
BUT WHY DO I WASTE MY BREATH? YOU CAN'T *HEAR* ME ANYMORE, SURFER--
-- *CAN* YOU?

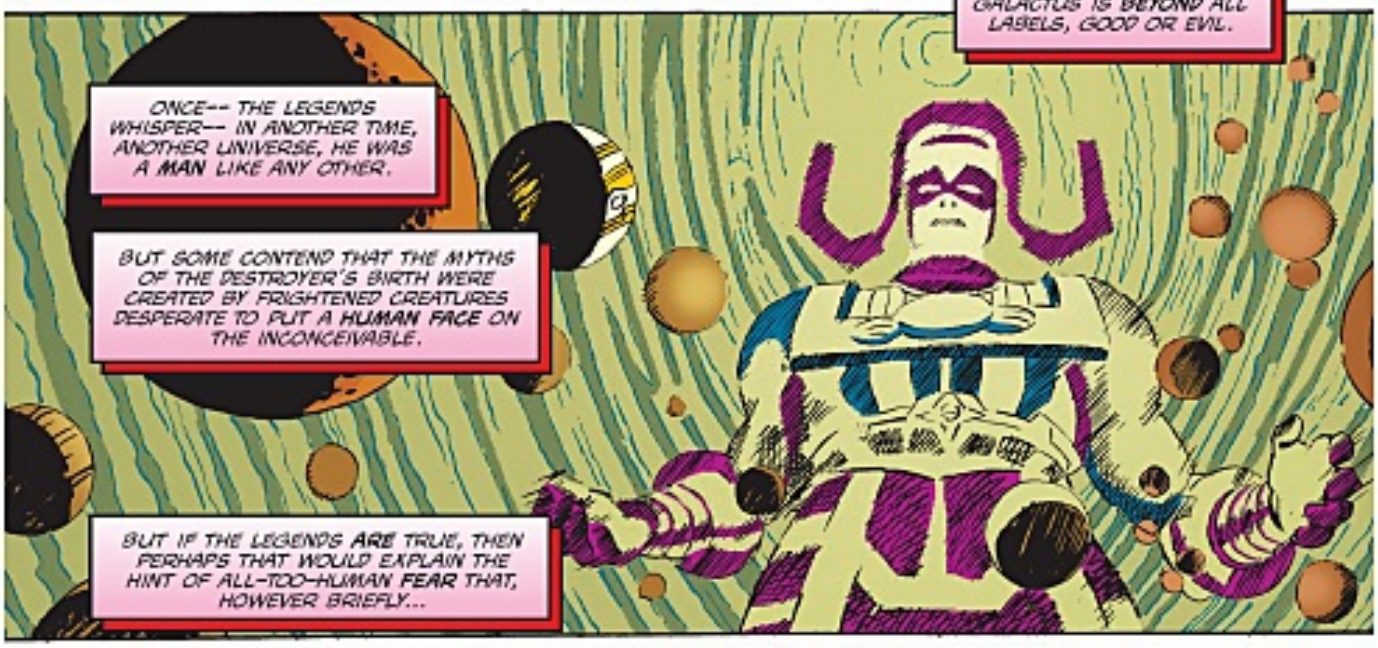

WHAT HAVE YOU **DONE** TO HIM?
DRAINED HIS *COSMIC POWER*...AND FED IT DIRECTLY *INTO MY SHIP.*
MY MIND-CONTROL DEVICES, MY ENGINES, MY WEAPONS SYSTEMS-- ALL ARE NOW FUELED BY ENERGIES BIRTHED BY THE GREAT *GALACTUS* HIMSELF!
WELL DONE.
YOU FACED YOUR WEAKNESS, YOUR PAIN-- AND YOU **CAME BACK.** THERE IS MUCH, WE THINK--
-- TO BE **LEARNED** FROM YOU.
INDEED?
WE WANT TO ABSORB **ALL KNOWLEDGE** OF INDIVIDUAL EXISTENCE, FROM THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE MIND-- TO THE PASSIONS OF THE **BODY.**
AND YOU, WHO HAVE CATALOGUED THE PSYCHES OF MILLIONS OF SPECIES-- SHALL BE MY **TEACHER.**
AND IN RETURN FOR MY SHARED WISDOM?
AN **ALLIANCE.** AN EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY. I HAVE, WITHIN ME, THE **COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE** OF THE ENTIRE MERGENCE-- AND IT CAN BE **YOURS.**
WE ARE BOTH **BORN** TO CONQUER. TO **ABSORB** THAT WHICH IS LESS THAN US.
TOGETHER, I THINK, WE CAN SUBJUGATE NOT JUST ONE UNIVERSE-- BUT ALL UNIVERSES-- IN ALL CREATION! FROM SUB-ATOMICA...TO THE MACROVERSE!
I AM... INTRIGUED.
THEN **TEACH** ME.

TEACH ME-- EVERYTHING!

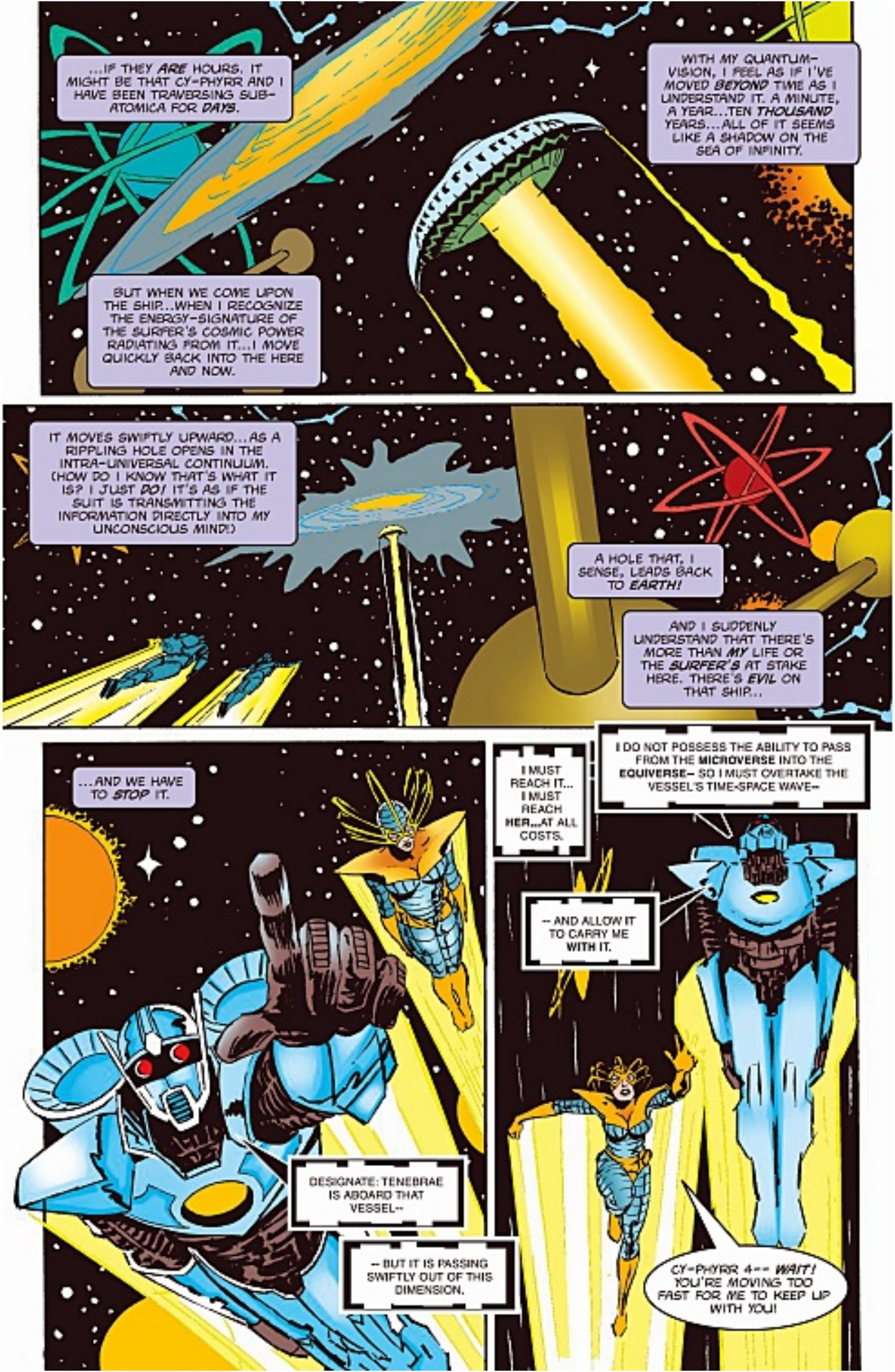
ON THE EDGE OF SPACE...AT THE VERY BORDERS OF TIME AND EXISTENCE..
...THROUGH A SEA OF COSMIC ENERGY, A VORTEX OF PRIMAL FORCE...
...STRIDES THE DESTROYER.


THE CONSUMER OF WORLDS.
HE HAS NO TRUE FORM, THIS UNFATHOMABLE CREATURE-- YET MEN CONTINUE TO PROJECT FORM UPON HIM.
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IS SO ALIEN, SO UTTERLY INEFFABLE, THAT IT IS FUTILITY ITSELF TO TRY TO COMPREHEND HIM.

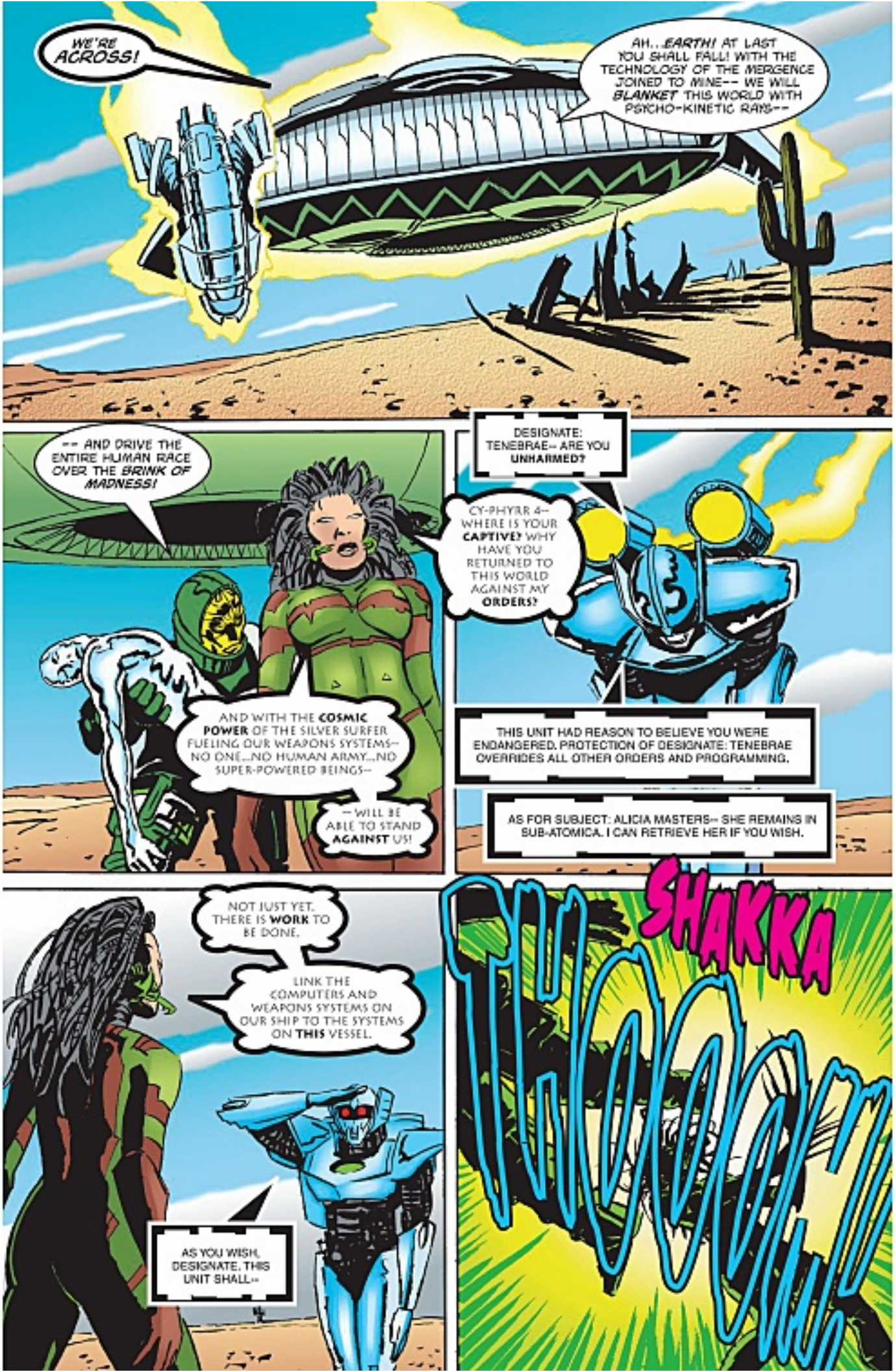

AND YET WE DO. WE MUST, FOR OUR VERY SURVIVAL DEPENDS UPON IT. WE GAZE, IN AWE AND TERROR, UPON HIM AND GIVE THE BEAST A NAME;
GALACTUS.
THE NAME ITSELF IS MEANINGLESS. AS ARE THE TEN MILLION OTHERS HE IS KNOWN BY.
EVEN TO CALL HIM A BEAST IS ABSURD-- FOR GALACTUS IS BEYOND ALL LABELS, GOOD OR EVIL.


ONCE-- THE LEGENDS WHISPER-- IN ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER UNIVERSE, HE WAS A MAN LIKE ANY OTHER.
BUT SOME CONTEND THAT THE MYTHS OF THE DESTROYER'S BIRTH WERE CREATED BY FRIGHTENED CREATURES DESPERATE TO PUT A HUMAN FACE ON THE INCONCEIVABLE.
BUT IF THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE, THEN PERHAPS THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE HINT OF ALL-TOO-HUMAN FEAR THAT, HOWEVER BRIEFLY...

...LIGHTS GALACTUS'S EYES.
HOW QUICKLY THE HOURS PASS...


...IF THEY ARE HOURS, IT MIGHT BE THAT CY-PHYRR AND I HAVE BEEN TRAVERSING SUB-ATOMICA FOR DAYS.
WITH MY QUANTUM-VISION, I FEEL AS IF I'VE MOVED BEYOND TIME AS I UNDERSTAND IT. A MINUTE, A YEAR...TEN THOUSAND YEARS...ALL OF IT SEEMS LIKE A SHADOW ON THE SEA OF INFINITY.
BUT WHEN WE COME UPON THE SHIP...WHEN I RECOGNIZE THE ENERGY-SIGNATURE OF THE SURFER'S COSMIC POWER RADIATING FROM IT...I MOVE QUICKLY BACK INTO THE HERE AND NOW.
IT MOVES SWIFTLY UPWARD...AS A RIPPLING HOLE OPENS IN THE INTRA-UNIVERSAL CONTINUUM. (HOW DO I KNOW THAT'S WHAT IT IS? I JUST DO! IT'S AS IF THE SUIT IS TRANSMITTING THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY INTO MY UNCONSCIOUS MIND!)
A HOLE THAT, I SENSE, LEADS BACK TO EARTH!
AND I SUDDENLY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S MORE THAN MY LIFE OR THE SURFER'S AT STAKE HERE. THERE'S EVIL ON THAT SHIP...
...AND WE HAVE TO STOP IT.
I MUST REACH IT... I MUST REACH HER...AT ALL COSTS.
I DO NOT POSSESS THE ABILITY TO PASS FROM THE MICROVERSE INTO THE EQUIVERSE-- SO I MUST OVERTAKE THE VESSEL'S TIME-SPACE WAVE--
-- AND ALLOW IT TO CARRY ME WITH IT.
DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE IS ABOARD THAT VESSEL--
-- BUT IT IS PASSING SWIFTLY OUT OF THIS DIMENSION.
CY-PHYRR 4-- WAIT! YOU'RE MOVING TOO FAST FOR ME TO KEEP UP WITH YOU!

SSSRACKKTTT
WOOOOOOMMMM!!!
CY-PHYRR!
CY-PHYRR!
"DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS BREACHED!"


WE'RE ACROSS!
AH...EARTH! AT LAST YOU SHALL FALL! WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE MERGENCE JOINED TO MINE-- WE WILL BLANKET THIS WORLD WITH PSYCHO-KINETIC RAYS--
-- AND DRIVE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE OVER THE BRINK OF MADNESS!
AND WITH THE COSMIC POWER OF THE SILVER SURFER FUELING OUR WEAPONS SYSTEMS-- NO ONE...NO HUMAN ARMY...NO SUPER-POWERED BEINGS--
-- WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST US!
DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE-- ARE YOU UNHARMED?
CY-PHYRR 4-- WHERE IS YOUR CAPTIVE? WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED TO THIS WORLD AGAINST MY ORDERS?
THIS UNIT HAD REASON TO BELIEVE YOU WERE ENDANGERED. PROTECTION OF DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE OVERRIDES ALL OTHER ORDERS AND PROGRAMMING.
AS FOR SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS-- SHE REMAINS IN SUB-ATOMICA. I CAN RETRIEVE HER IF YOU WISH.
NOT JUST YET. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.
LINK THE COMPUTERS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS ON OUR SHIP TO THE SYSTEMS ON THIS VESSEL.
AS YOU WISH, DESIGNATE. THIS UNIT SHALL--
SHAKKA

HEAR US, TENEBRAE-- WE WHO WERE ONCE THE CORONER NOW SPEAK WITH THE VOICE OF THE MERGENCE!
IN CHOOSING INDIVIDUALITY OVER THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR RACE-- YOU HAVE BETRAYED US...AND ALL THAT WE ARE.
AND FOR THAT-- YOU MUST DIE.
BUT BEFORE CARRYING OUT YOUR EXECUTION-- WE MUST THANK YOU FOR VANQUISHING THE SILVER SURFER... FOR HE WAS THE ONLY FACTOR THAT PREVENTED US FROM ABSORBING THE EARTH.
THIS NIGHT-- AT LONG LAST-- EVERY LIVING THING UPON THIS WORLD-- BECOMES OURS!
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS
SILVER SURFER
LATE OCT
#145
DeMATTEIS
MUTH
TOLAGSON
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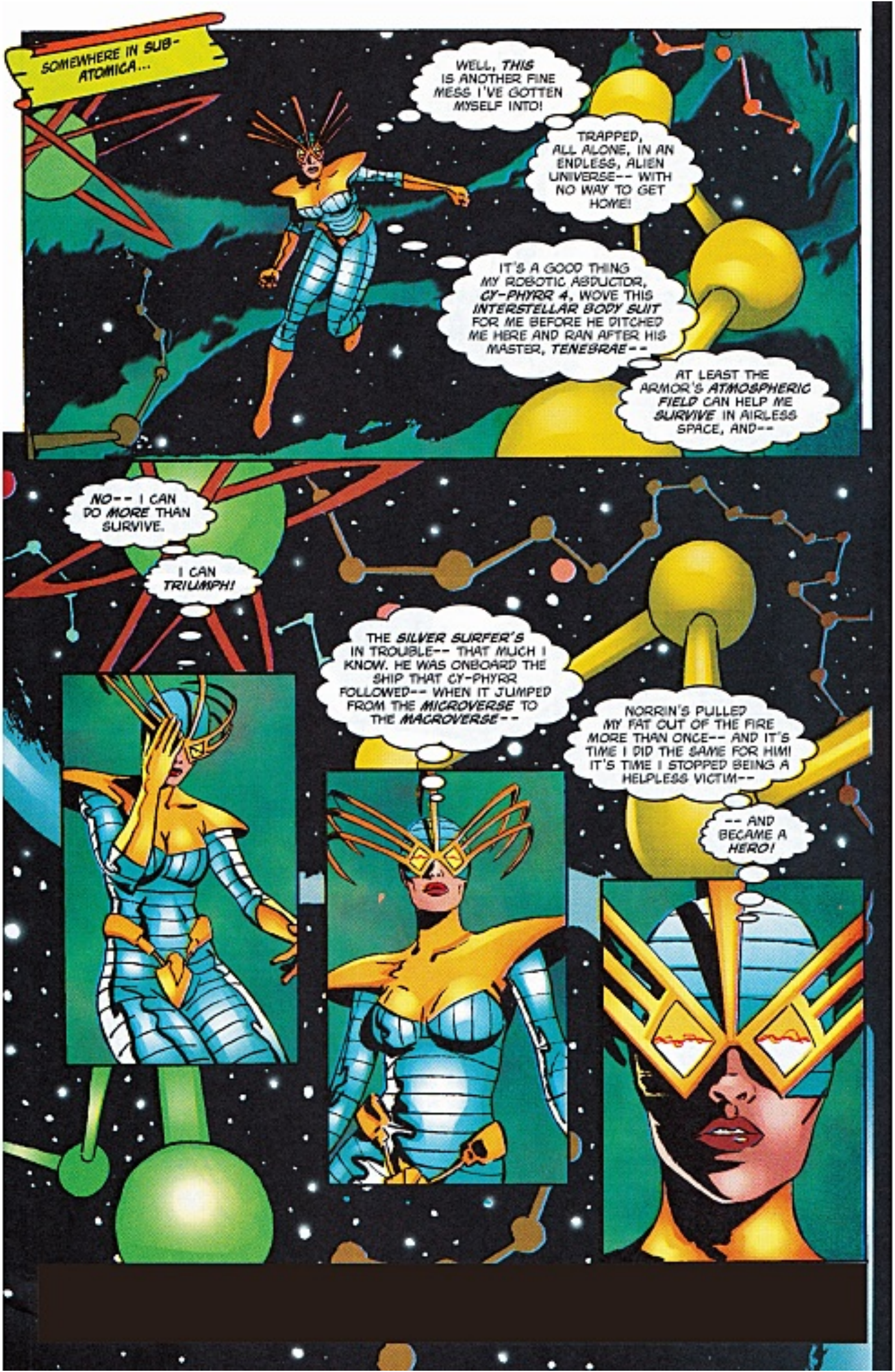
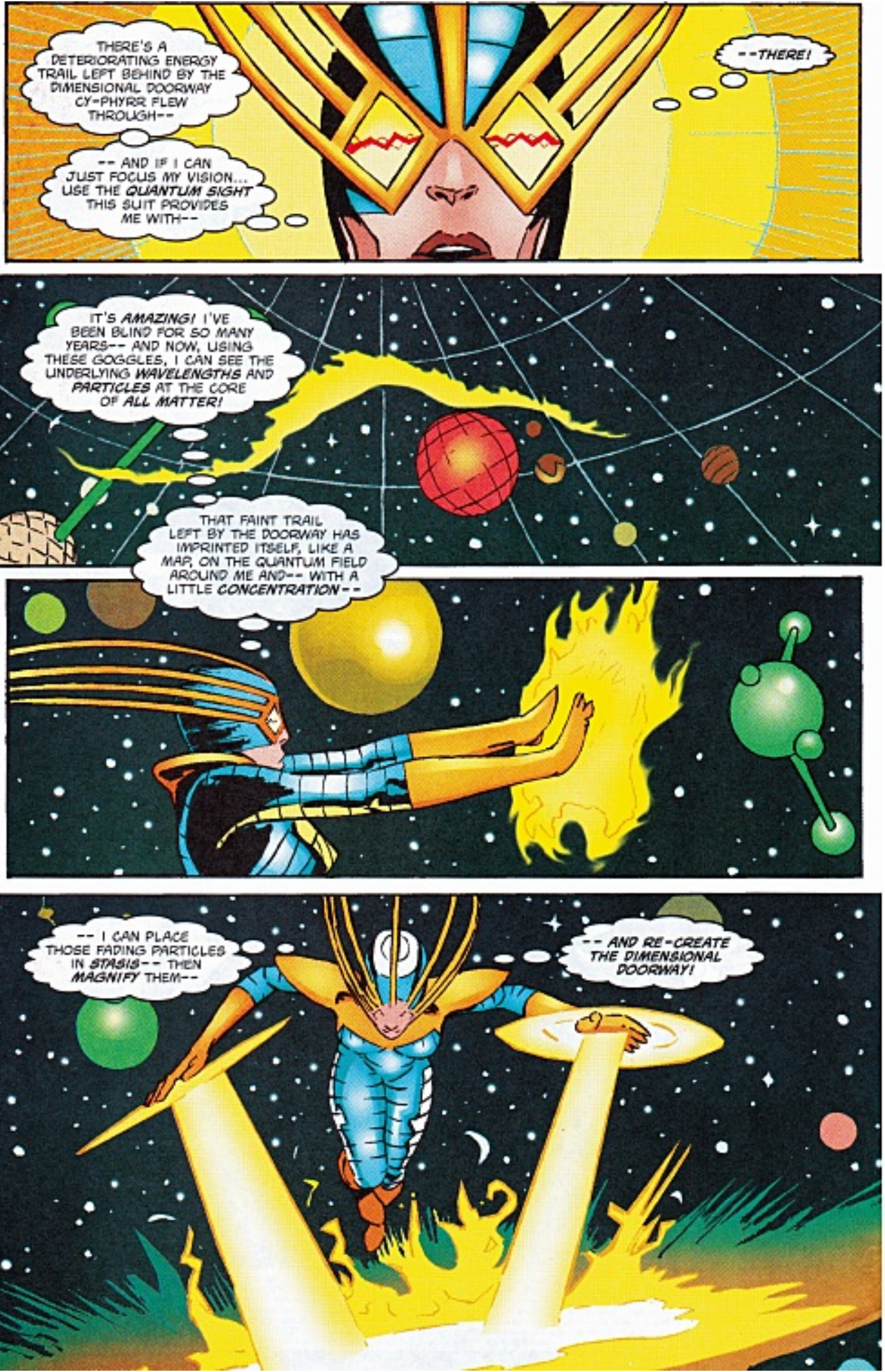
MUTH
...and WHO SHALL INHERIT the UNIVERSE?


SOMEWHERE IN SUB-ATOMICA...
WELL, THIS IS ANOTHER FINE MESS I'VE GOTTEN MYSELF INTO!
TRAPPED, ALL ALONE, IN AN ENDLESS, ALIEN UNIVERSE-- WITH NO WAY TO GET HOME!
IT'S A GOOD THING MY ROBOTIC ABDUCTOR, CY-PHYRR 4, WOVE THIS INTERSTELLAR BODY SUIT FOR ME BEFORE HE DITCHED ME HERE AND RAN AFTER HIS MASTER, TENEBRAE--
AT LEAST THE ARMOR'S ATMOSPHERIC FIELD CAN HELP ME SURVIVE IN AIRLESS SPACE, AND--
NO-- I CAN DO MORE THAN SURVIVE.
I CAN TRIUMPH!
THE SILVER SURFER'S IN TROUBLE-- THAT MUCH I KNOW. HE WAS ONBOARD THE SHIP THAT CY-PHYRR FOLLOWED-- WHEN IT JUMPED FROM THE MICROVERSE TO THE MACROVERSE--
NORRIN'S PULLED MY FAT OUT OF THE FIRE MORE THAN ONCE-- AND IT'S TIME I DID THE SAME FOR HIM! IT'S TIME I STOPPED BEING A HELPLESS VICTIM--
-- AND BECAME A HERO!

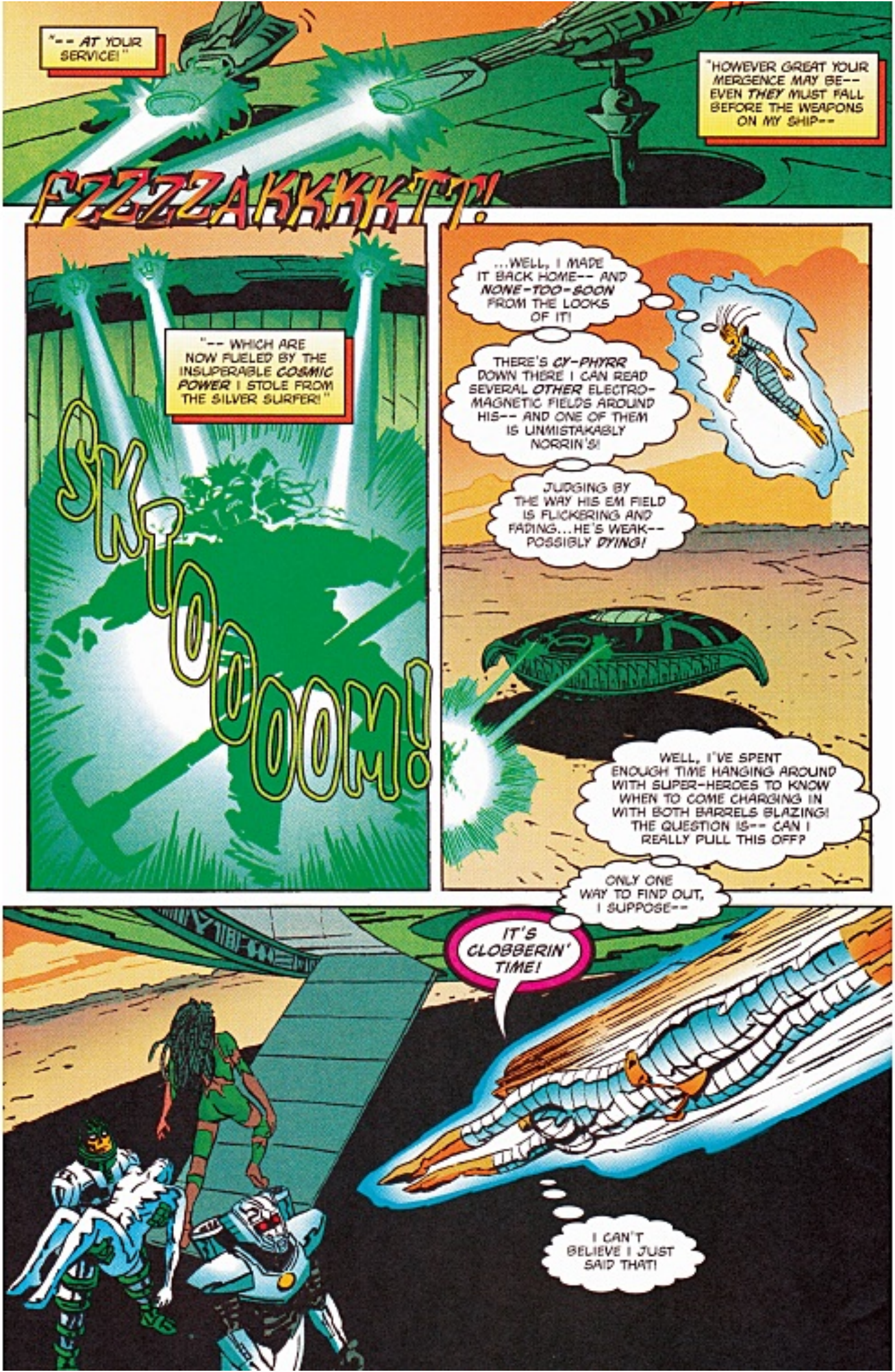

THERE'S A DETERIORATING ENERGY TRAIL LEFT BEHIND BY THE DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY CY-PHYRR FLEW THROUGH--
-- AND IF I CAN JUST FOCUS MY VISION... USE THE QUANTUM SIGHT THIS SUIT PROVIDES ME WITH--
--THERE!
IT'S AMAZING! I'VE BEEN BLIND FOR SO MANY YEARS-- AND NOW, USING THESE GOGGLES, I CAN SEE THE UNDERLYING WAVELENGTHS AND PARTICLES AT THE CORE OF ALL MATTER!
THAT FAINT TRAIL LEFT BY THE DOORWAY HAS IMPRINTED ITSELF, LIKE A MAP, ON THE QUANTUM FIELD AROUND ME AND-- WITH A LITTLE CONCENTRATION--
-- I CAN PLACE THOSE FADING PARTICLES IN STASIS-- THEN MAGNIFY THEM--
-- AND RE-CREATE THE DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY!

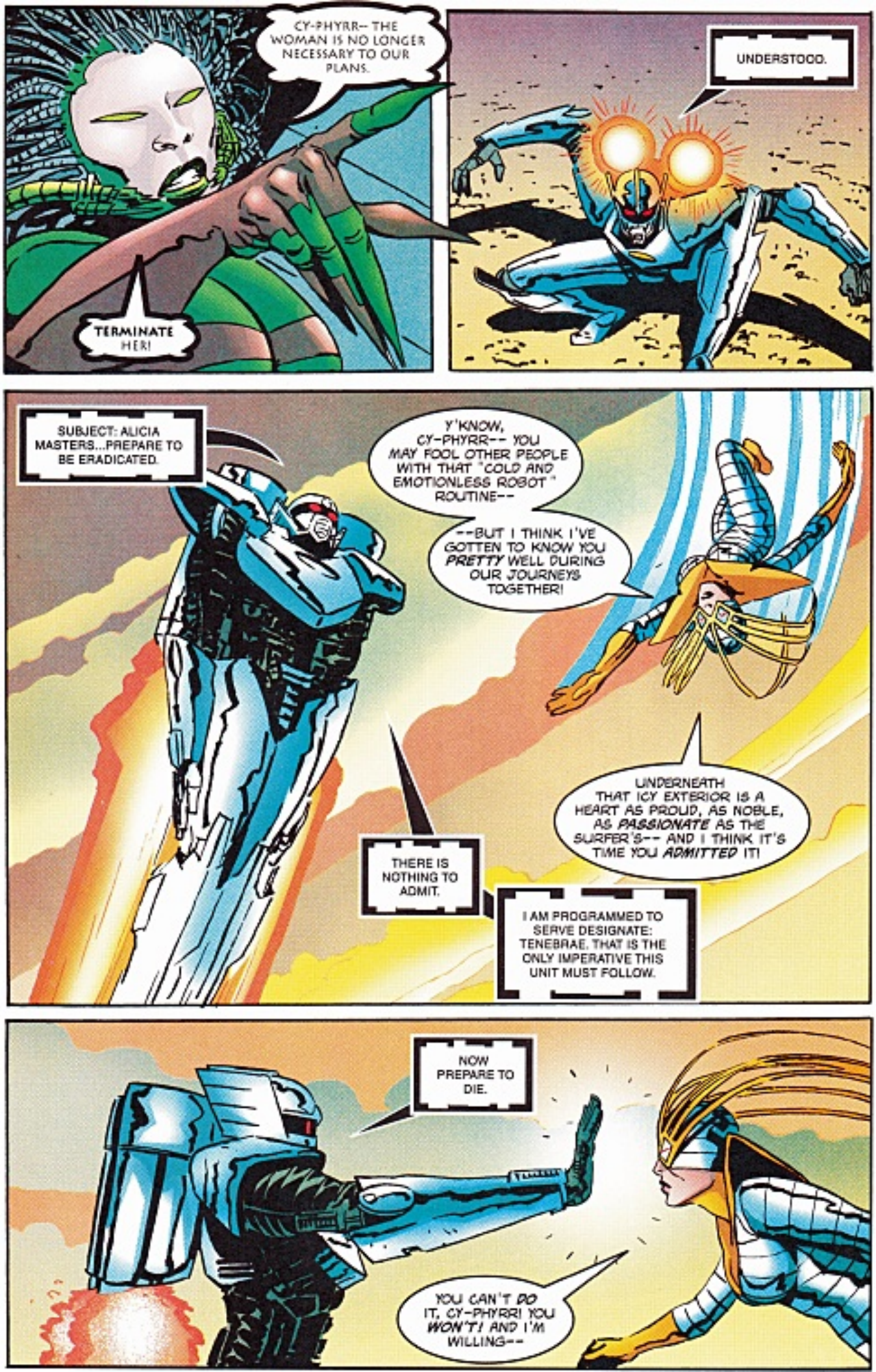
WOW! I DID THAT-- WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT! BUT-- HOW!
YES-- I UNDERSTAND NOW-- I CAN FEEL WAVES OF DATA...FLOODING INTO ME!
THE SUIT... HAS A PSYCHIC INTERFACE-- BYPASSING MY RATIONAL MIND FOR THE INTUITIVE CENTERS OF MY BRAIN--
IT'S AS IF-- I'VE BECOME THE TECHNOLOGY...AND THE TECHNOLOGY HAS BECOME ME!
I KNOW WHAT THE ARMOR CAN DO...WITHOUT HAVING TO THINK ABOUT IT! AND IT RESPONDS TO ME... ON A SUBCONSCIOUS LEVEL!
WHAT A RUSH!
OKAY, ALICIA-- LET'S KEEP FOCUSED ON THE TASK AT HAND!
YOU'VE BUILT THE BRIDGE HOME--
FWASH!
--NOW LET'S GO OVER IT!

Stan Lee Presents
THE SILVER SURFER
EARTH: SOMEWHERE IN THE NEVADA DESERT...
HEAR US, TENEBRAE-- WE WHO WERE ONCE THE CORONER NOW SPEAK WITH THE VOICE OF THE MERGENCE!
IN CHOOSING INDIVIDUALITY OVER THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS OF OUR RACE-- YOU HAVE BETRAYED US...AND ALL THAT WE ARE.
AND FOR THAT-- YOU MUST DIE.

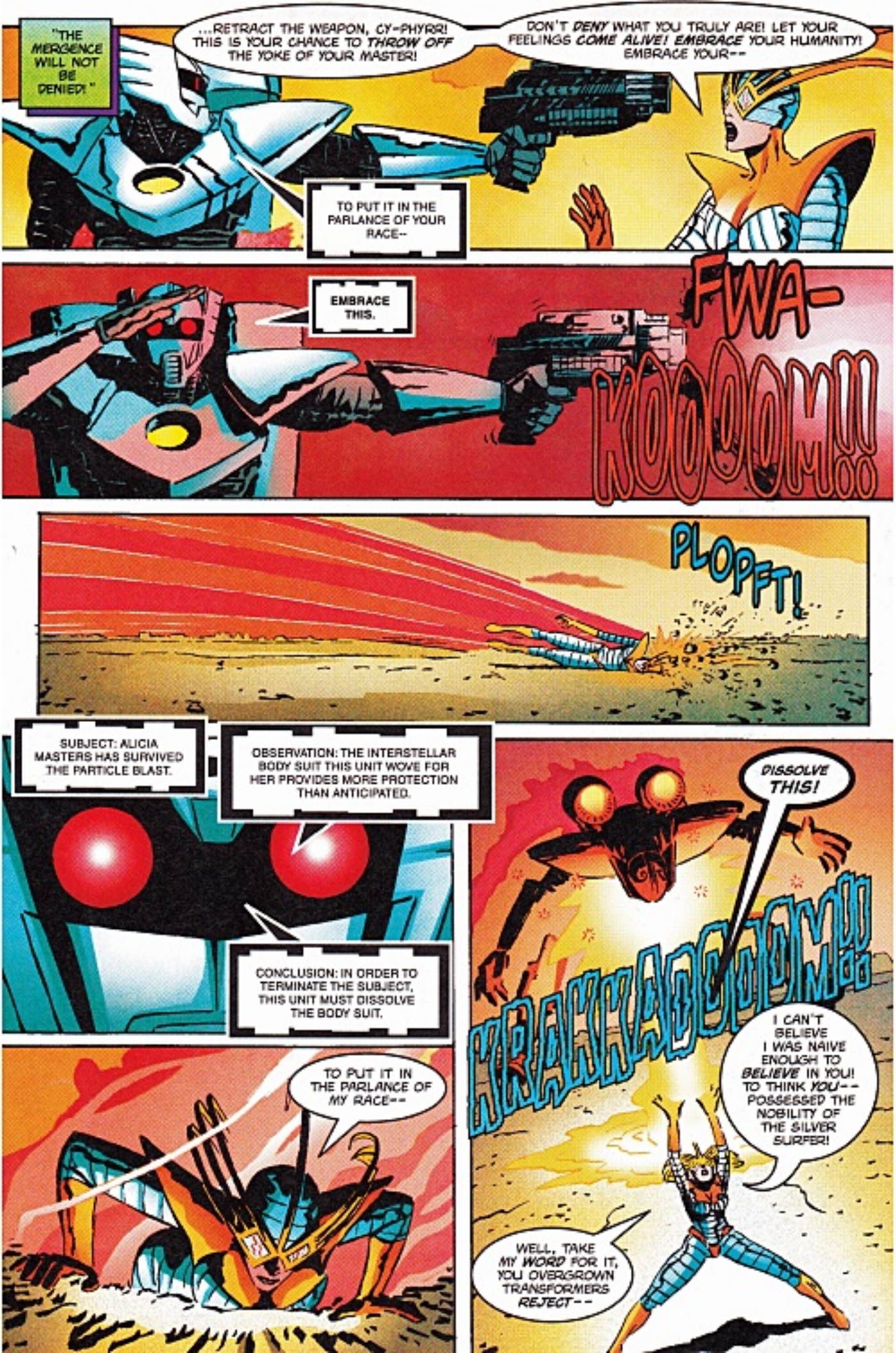
BUT BEFORE CARRYING OUT YOUR EXECUTION-- WE MUST THANK YOU FOR VANQUISHING THE SILVER SURFER...FOR HE WAS THE ONLY FACTOR THAT PREVENTED US FROM ABSORBING THE EARTH.
THIS NIGHT-- AT LONG LAST-- EVERY LIVING THING UPON THIS WORLD-- BECOMES OURS!
And in the End...
BY
JOHN MARC DEMATTEIS
&
JON J MUTH
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN, COLORIST
JAYE GARDNER, EDITOR
BOB HARRAS, CHIEF

YOU ARE MISTAKEN, VESSEL OF THE MERGENCE. IT WAS NOT MY CHOICE TO BE CUT OFF FROM YOU.
I DO NOT PREFER INDIVIDUAL EXISTENCE TO EXISTENCE WITHIN THE GROUP MIND.
THIS SITUATION WAS THRUST UPON ME! I--
DO YOU HEAR THE WORDS YOU CHOOSE, TENEBRAE?
"MY CHOICE"! I DO NOT PREFER!
YOU HAVE BEEN POISONED-- BY SINGULARITY! YOU ARE NO LONGER OF THE MERGENCE!
THEN TAKE ME BACK INTO YOURSELVES! DISCARD THE BODY OF THE HUMAN CALLED THE CORONER--
-- AND MAKE ME YOUR EARTHLY HOST! LET ME BE YOUR VOICE AND VEHICLE ON THIS WORLD ONCE AGAIN!
KLIK
NO!
YOU ARE TAINTED! UNLIKE THE LOWER FORMS WE ABSORB, YOU WERE ONE OF US-- AND TURNED YOUR FACE AWAY FROM THE ALL-IN-ALL!
TO LET SUCH POISON RE-ENTER THE MERGENCE WOULD BE A DESECRATION OF WHAT WE ARE! YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS--
-- MUST BE TOTALLY ERASED FROM THE PSYCHIC CONTINUUM!
PSYCHO-MAN--?
AT YOUR SERVICE, MY DEAR! COMPLETELY--
SHAKKKKKK!!!


"-- AT YOUR SERVICE!"
"HOWEVER GREAT YOUR MERGENCE MAY BE-- EVEN THEY MUST FALL BEFORE THE WEAPONS ON MY SHIP--
FZZZZAKKKK!!
"-- WHICH ARE NOW FUELED BY THE INSUPERABLE COSMIC POWER I STOLE FROM THE SILVER SURFER!"
SKOOOOOM!
...WELL, I MADE IT BACK HOME-- AND NONE-TOO-SOON FROM THE LOOKS OF IT!
THERE'S CY-PHYRR DOWN THERE! I CAN READ SEVERAL OTHER ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS AROUND HIS-- AND ONE OF THEM IS UNMISTAKABLY NORRIN'S!
JUDGING BY THE WAY HIS EM FIELD IS FLICKERING AND FADING... HE'S WEAK-- POSSIBLY DYING!
WELL, I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME HANGING AROUND WITH SUPER-HEROES TO KNOW WHEN TO COME CHARGING IN WITH BOTH BARRELS BLAZING! THE QUESTION IS-- CAN I REALLY PULL THIS OFF?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, I SUPPOSE--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!


CY-PHYRR-- THE WOMAN IS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO OUR PLANS.
TERMINATE HER!
UNDERSTOOD.
SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS...PREPARE TO BE ERADICATED.
Y'KNOW, CY-PHYRR-- YOU MAY FOOL OTHER PEOPLE WITH THAT "COLD AND EMOTIONLESS ROBOT" ROUTINE--
--BUT I THINK I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW YOU PRETTY WELL DURING OUR JOURNEYS TOGETHER!
UNDERNEATH THAT ICY EXTERIOR IS A HEART AS PROUD, AS NOBLE, AS PASSIONATE AS THE SURFER'S-- AND I THINK IT'S TIME YOU ADMITTED IT!
THERE IS NOTHING TO ADMIT.
I AM PROGRAMMED TO SERVE DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE. THAT IS THE ONLY IMPERATIVE THIS UNIT MUST FOLLOW.
NOW PREPARE TO DIE.
YOU CAN'T DO IT, CY-PHYRR! YOU WON'T! AND I'M WILLING--

"--TO BET MY LIFE ON IT!"
ENGINES ENGAGED! TENEBRAE-- HAVE YOU LINKED THE COMPUTERS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS ON YOUR SHIP TO THE SYSTEMS ON MY VESSEL?
LINK IN PROGRESS. WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE MERGENCE JOINED TO YOURS-- WE WILL BLANKET THIS WORLD WITH PSYCHO-KINETIC RAYS--
-- AND DRIVE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE OVER THE BRINK OF MADNESS! THEY WILL BE OURS TO CONTROL AND COMMAND!
AND WITH THE SURFER'S COSMIC POWER DRIVING OUR WEAPONS SYSTEMS-- NONE OF THE EARTH'S SUPER-POWERED PROTECTORS--
--WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST--
-- UGH!
TOOOOOM!!!
SURRENDER YOUR VESSEL, TENEBRAE!


"THE MERGENCE WILL NOT BE DENIED!"
...RETRACT THE WEAPON, CY-PHYRR! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO THROW OFF THE YOKE OF YOUR MASTER!
DON'T DENY WHAT YOU TRULY ARE! LET YOUR FEELINGS COME ALIVE! EMBRACE YOUR HUMANITY! EMBRACE YOUR--
TO PUT IT IN THE PARLANCE OF YOUR RACE--
EMBRACE THIS.
FWA-
KOOOOM!!!
PLOPFT!
SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS HAS SURVIVED THE PARTICLE BLAST.
OBSERVATION: THE INTERSTELLAR BODY SUIT THIS UNIT WOVE FOR HER PROVIDES MORE PROTECTION THAN ANTICIPATED.
CONCLUSION: IN ORDER TO TERMINATE THE SUBJECT, THIS UNIT MUST DISSOLVE THE BODY SUIT.
DISSOLVE THIS!
KRAKADOOM!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS NAIVE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE IN YOU! TO THINK YOU-- POSSESSED THE NOBILITY OF THE SILVER SURFER!
WELL, TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, YOU OVERGROWN TRANSFORMERS REJECT--
TO PUT IT IN THE PARLANCE OF MY RACE--

"-- I WON'T GET FOOLED AGAIN!"
...THEY ARE YOUR RACE, TENEBRAE! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?
I SUGGEST WE ANNIHILATE THEM!
AS THEY SO ACCURATELY OBSERVED-- I AM NO LONGER OF THE MERGENCE! I HAVE EATEN THE APPLE OF INDIVIDUALITY! I KNOW THE GLORIES OF PHYSICAL FORM--
-- AND I WILL NOT HAVE MY VERY SELF TAKEN FROM ME!
RE-ROUTE ALL OF THE SURFER'S POWER TO THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS! IF THERE IS ONE FORCE IN ALL THE UNIVERSES THAT THE MERGENCE CANNOT SURVIVE--
-- IT IS HIS!
...ALICIA...?

THE SURFER-- HE AWAKENS!
SO? IN HIS CURRENT STATE HE IS NO THREAT TO US! NOW DO AS I TOLD YOU! POWER UP ALL WEAPONS--
"-- AND FIRE!"
IT IS TOO LATE, TENEBRAE! WE HAVE UNLEASHED THE NULL-WAVE!
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS IT WILL ENGULF YOUR SHIP-- AND ALL WITHIN IT--
-- PERMEATING YOUR HEARTS, YOUR MINDS, YOUR SOULS! IN A MATTER OF SECONDS-- YOU WILL BE ERASED FROM REALITY!

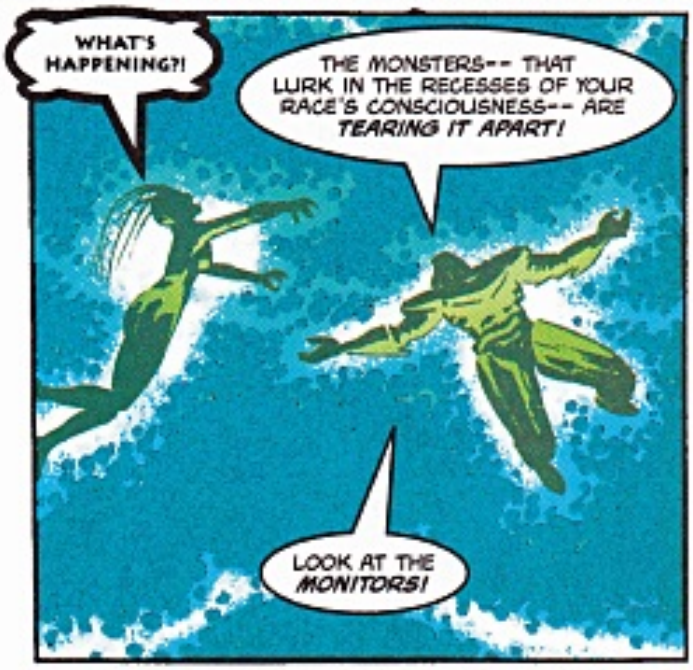
"IT WILL BE-- AS IF YOU HAVE NEVER EXISTED!"
THOUGH MY EVERY MOVEMENT IS SHEER AGONY...THOUGH ALL THE STRENGTH HAS BEEN BLED FROM MY BODY-- I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!
I CANNOT ABANDON THE EARTH-- AND THE WOMAN I LOVE! TENEBRAE, PSYCHO-MAN...AND, ABOVE ALL, THE MERGENCE-- MUST BE STOPPED!
THERE-- IN THE BLAZING QUANTUM CORE OF THE SHIP'S ENGINES-- IS WHERE MY STOLEN POWER LIES! AND THERE--

DO YOU FEEL IT, PSYCHO-MAN? THE EDGE OF THE NULL WAVE... RIPPLING THROUGH OUR VERY BEINGS! SOON IT WILL--
-- DO NOTHING... PROVIDING I HAVE THE TIME TO CHANNEL MY PSYCHIC PROBES INTO THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS! THE MERGENCE MAY BE THE MOST POWERFUL GROUP-MIND IN THE UNIVERSE--
--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY DON'T HAVE THE SAME UNCONSCIOUS TERRORS THAT THE REST OF US DO! LET'S JUST SEE--

-- THE SILVER SURFER MUST GO!

...WHAT THEY'RE HIDING!

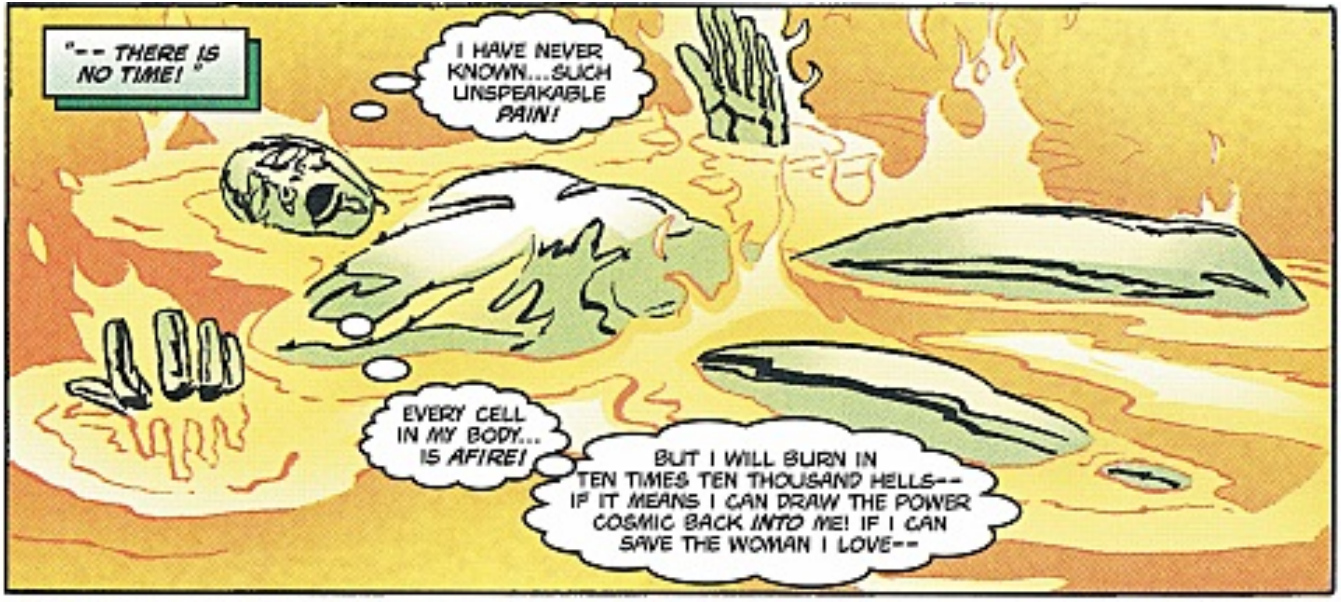
AHHHHHHHH--!!


WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE MONSTERS-- THAT LURK IN THE RECESSES OF YOUR RACE'S CONSCIOUSNESS-- ARE *TEARING IT APART!*
LOOK AT THE *MONITORS!*

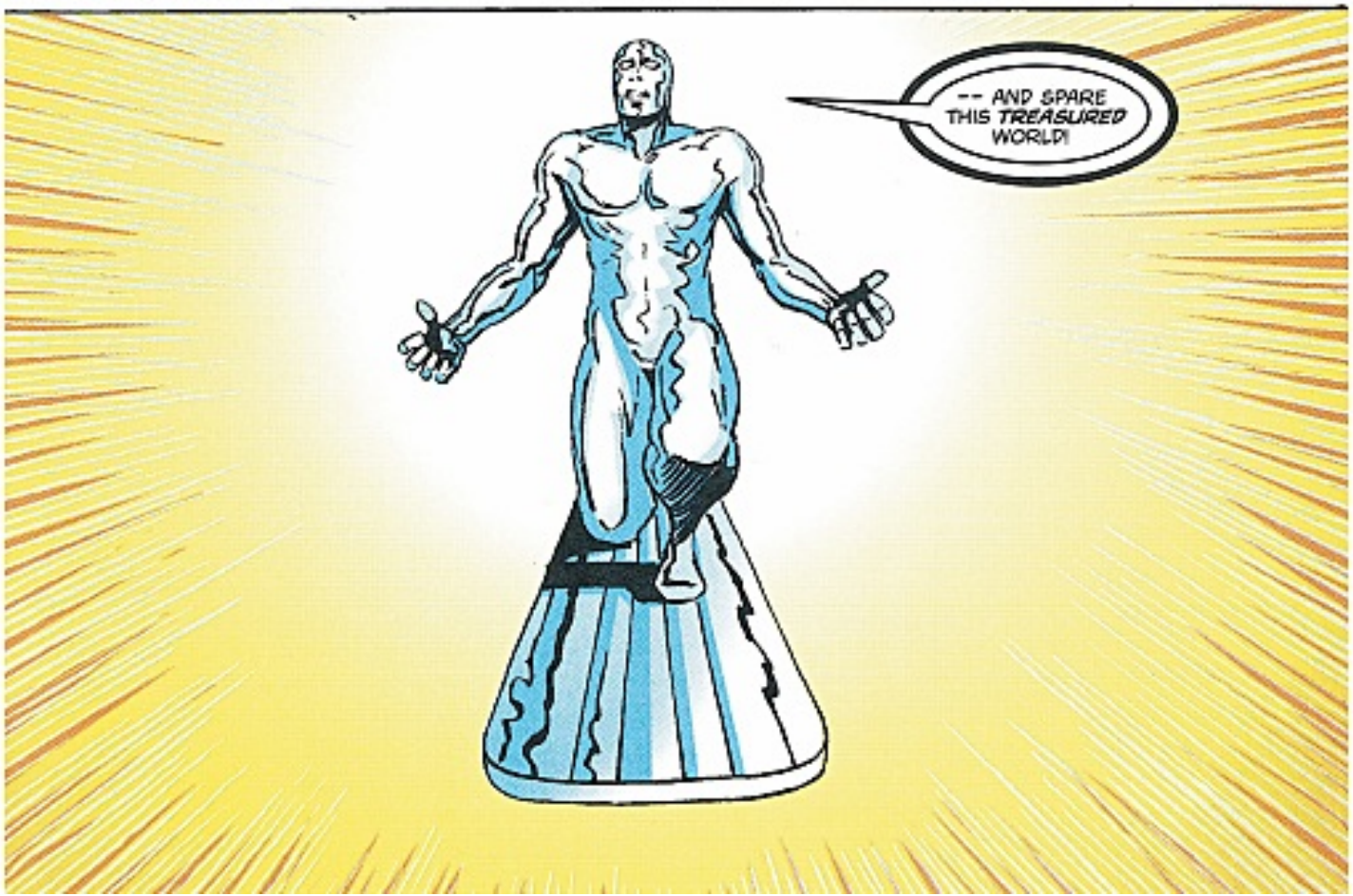
"IN ITS AGONIES, THE MERGENCE IS RETURNING THE CORONER'S *FORM* TO HIM--
"-- *EXPELLING* HIM FROM THE GROUP-MIND!"

"WITHOUT A HUMAN HOST TO FOCUS ITSELF THROUGH, THE MERGENCE-- IS DEFEATED!
"WE'VE WON!"

NO! YOU'VE STOPPED THE NULL WAVE-- BUT THE **PSYCHIC FEEDBACK** EMANATING FROM THAT ALL-POWERFUL CONSCIOUSNESS IS GOING TO WASH **ACROSS THE EARTH**-- DESTROYING **EVERYTHING** IN ITS PATH--
--INCLUDING US!
NOT IF WE CAN RETURN TO *SUB-ATOMICA* BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!
IDIOT--


"-- THERE IS NO TIME!"
I HAVE NEVER KNOWN...SUCH UNSPEAKABLE PAIN!
EVERY CELL IN MY BODY... IS AFIRE!
BUT I WILL BURN IN TEN TIMES TEN THOUSAND HELLS-- IF IT MEANS I CAN DRAW THE POWER COSMIC BACK INTO ME! IF I CAN SAVE THE WOMAN I LOVE--

FWAKATHOOOOOWWW!!

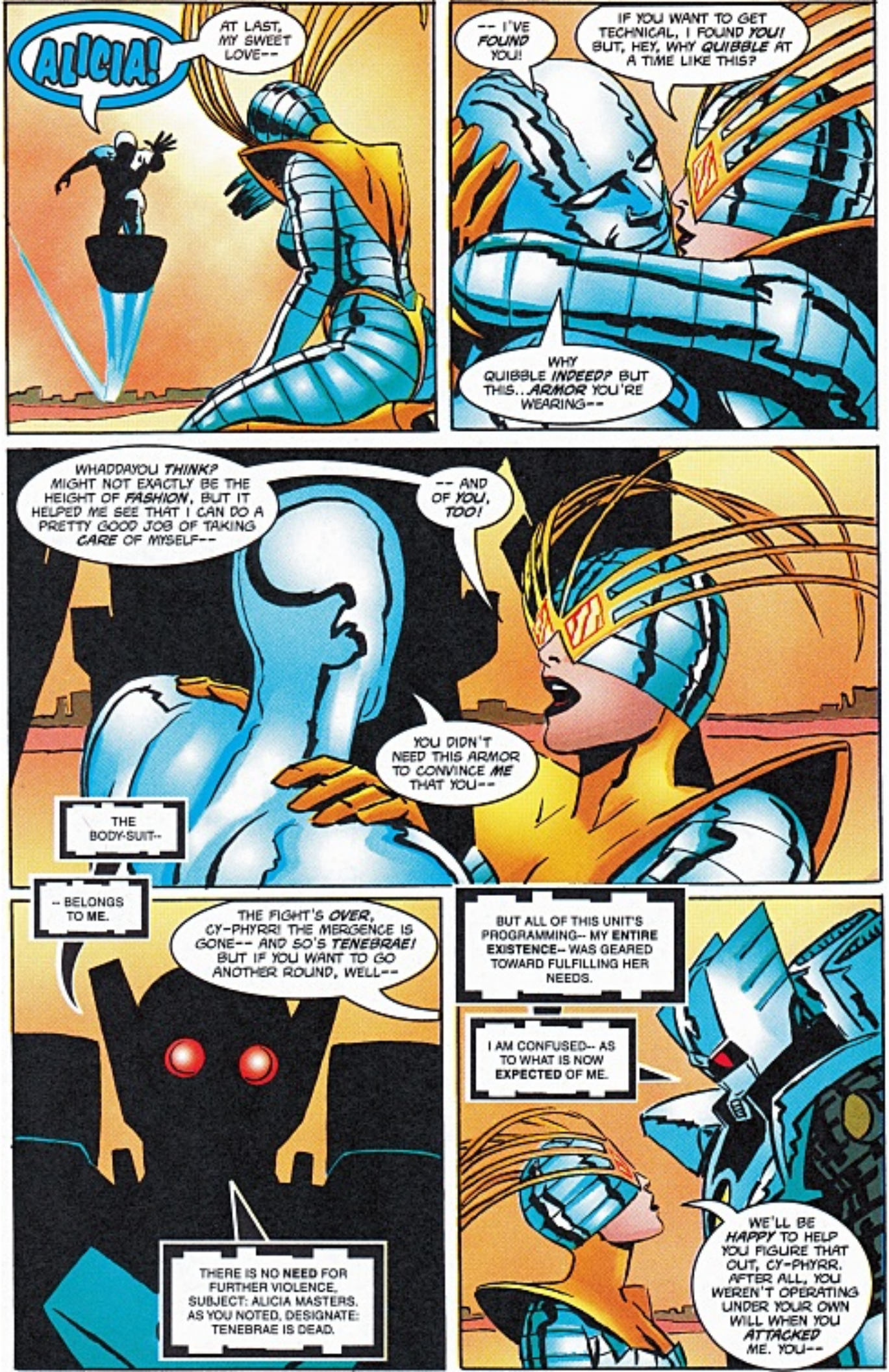

-- AND SPARE THIS TREASURED WORLD!

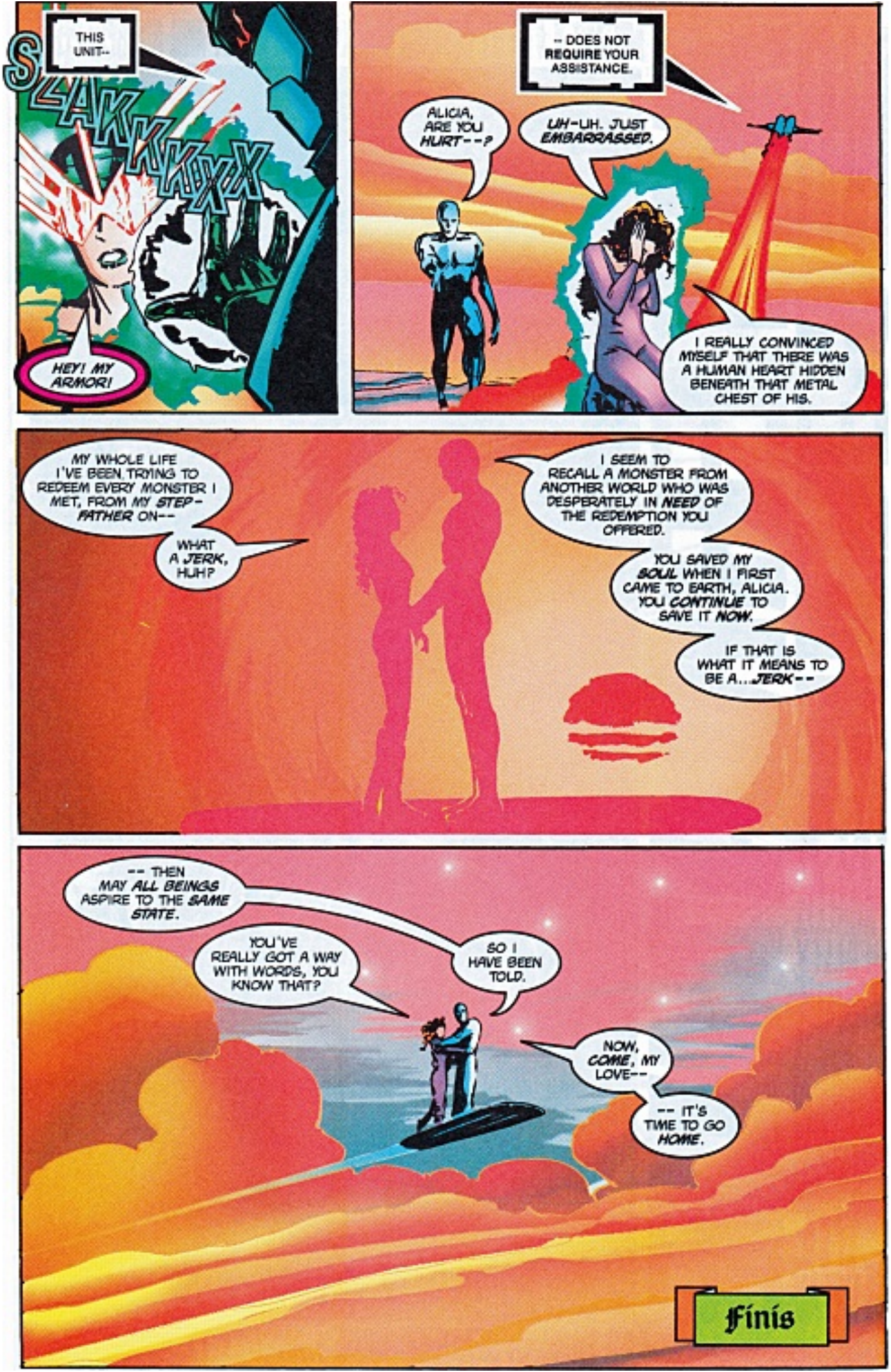
TENEBRAE AND THE PSYCHO-MAN-- WERE CONSUMED IN THE EXPLOSION! BUT THE MERGENCE--
-- LIVES. YOUR INTERCESSION HAS SAVED US FROM THE INCONCEIVABLE AGONIES OF OUR OWN MIND-- AND FOR THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL.
THEN SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE-- AND LEAVE THIS WORLD IN PEACE!
THAT WE WILL, SURFER.
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER QUESTION-- THAT HOVERS, UNSPOKEN, IN YOUR THOUGHTS.

YES.
WHEN LAST WE MET-- WHEN I REPELLED YOUR INVASION OF EARTH-- I FELT A GLEAMING TERROR EMANATING FROM YOU. AS IF I--
-- WERE THE ONE BEING IN ALL CREATION THAT THE MERGENCE FEARS? YES. IT IS TRUE. WE SEE NO REASON TO DENY IT.
BUT-- WHY?

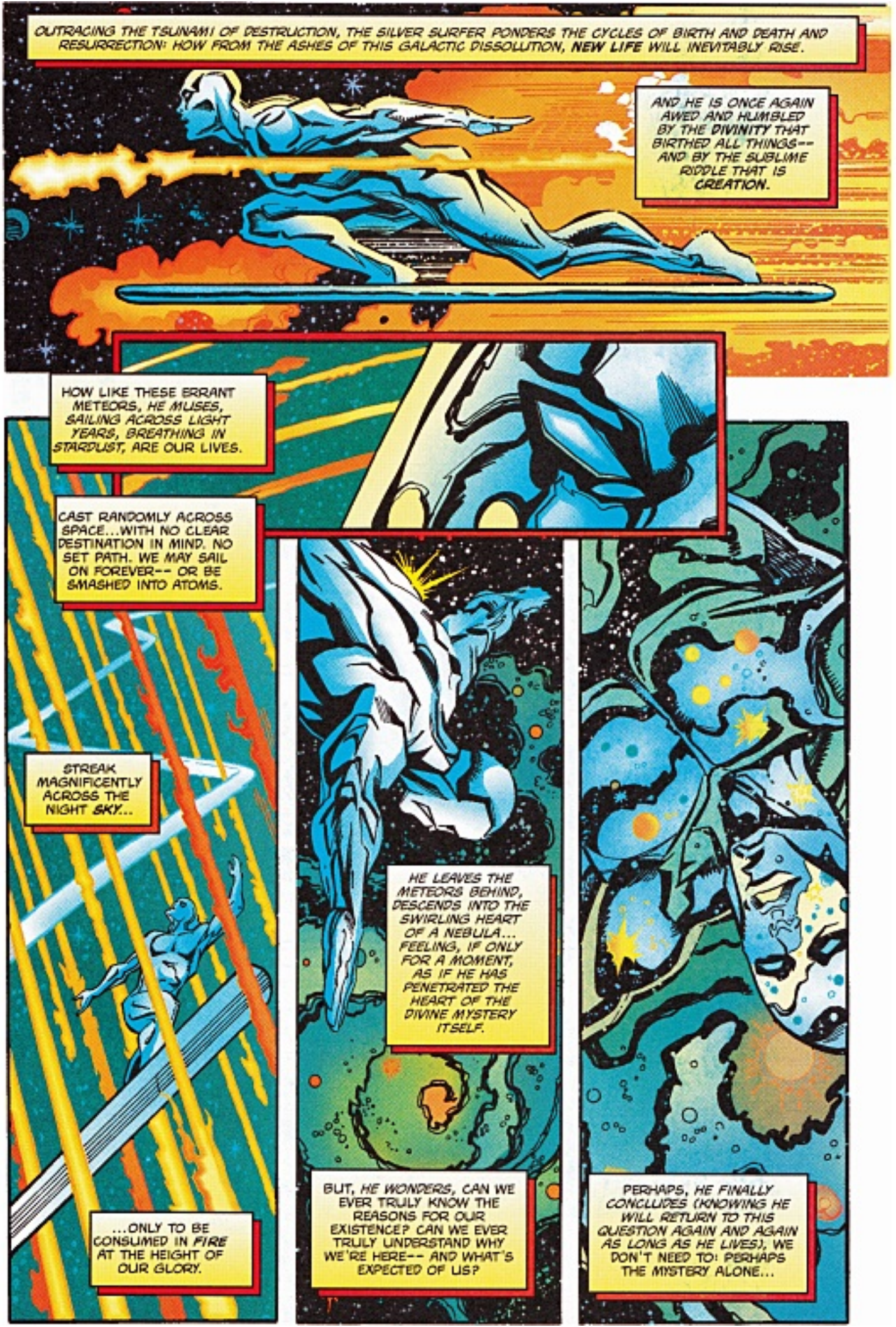
SOMEDAY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND-- WHO AND WHAT YOU TRULY ARE. SOMEDAY YOU WILL KNOW WHY, IN YOUR PRESENCE, EVEN YOUR CREATOR, THE GREAT GALACTUS--

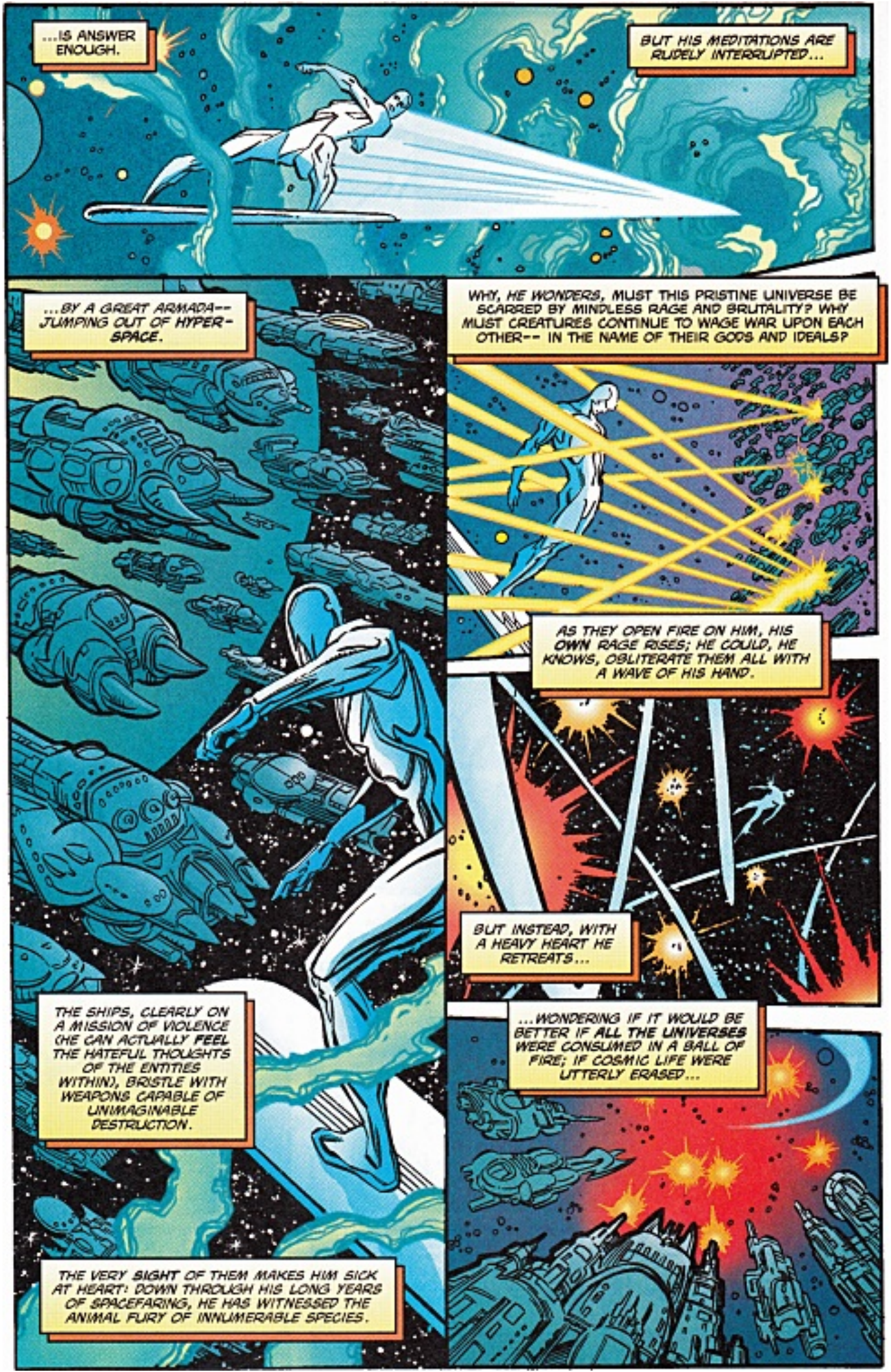
-- KNOWS A DEEP, UNDOUBTED DREAD.
WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU--
NORRIN!


ALICIA!
AT LAST, MY SWEET LOVE--
-- I'VE FOUND YOU!
IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL, I FOUND YOU! BUT, HEY, WHY QUIBBLE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHY QUIBBLE INDEED? BUT THIS.. ARMOR YOU'RE WEARING--
WHADDAYOU THINK? MIGHT NOT EXACTLY BE THE HEIGHT OF FASHION, BUT IT HELPED ME SEE THAT I CAN DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF--
-- AND OF YOU, TOO!
YOU DIDN'T NEED THIS ARMOR TO CONVINCE ME THAT YOU--
THE BODY-SUIT--
-- BELONGS TO ME.
THE FIGHT'S OVER, CY-PHYRR! THE MERGENCE IS GONE-- AND SO'S TENEBRAE! BUT IF YOU WANT TO GO ANOTHER ROUND, WELL--
THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER VIOLENCE. SUBJECT: ALICIA MASTERS. AS YOU NOTED, DESIGNATE: TENEBRAE IS DEAD.
BUT ALL OF THIS UNIT'S PROGRAMMING-- MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE-- WAS GEARED TOWARD FULFILLING HER NEEDS.
I AM CONFUSED-- AS TO WHAT IS NOW EXPECTED OF ME.
WE'LL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU FIGURE THAT OUT, CY-PHYRR. AFTER ALL, YOU WEREN'T OPERATING UNDER YOUR OWN WILL WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME. YOU--

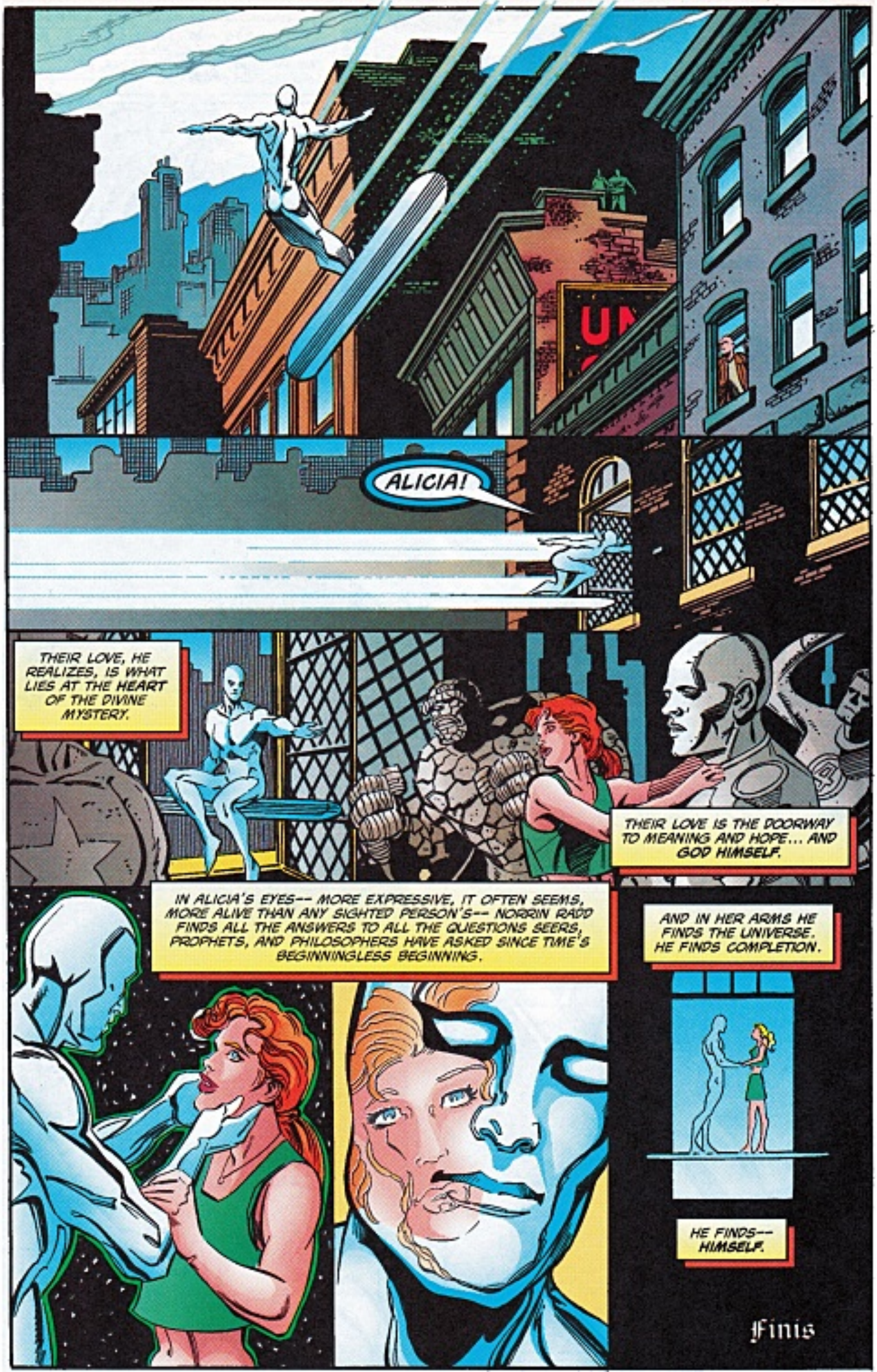

THIS UNIT--
SLAKKKXXX
HEY! MY ARMOR!
-- DOES NOT REQUIRE YOUR ASSISTANCE.
ALICIA, ARE YOU HURT--?
UH-UH. JUST EMBARRASSED.
I REALLY CONVINCED MYSELF THAT THERE WAS A HUMAN HEART HIDDEN BENEATH THAT METAL CHEST OF HIS.
MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REDEEM EVERY MONSTER I MET, FROM MY STEP-FATHER ON--
WHAT A JERK, HUH?
I SEEM TO RECALL A MONSTER FROM ANOTHER WORLD WHO WAS DESPERATELY IN NEED OF THE REDEMPTION YOU OFFERED.
YOU SAVED MY SOUL WHEN I FIRST CAME TO EARTH, ALICIA. YOU CONTINUE TO SAVE IT NOW.
IF THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A...JERK--
-- THEN MAY ALL BEINGS ASPIRE TO THE SAME STATE.
YOU'VE REALLY GOT A WAY WITH WORDS, YOU KNOW THAT?
SO I HAVE BEEN TOLD.
NOW, COME, MY LOVE--
-- IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
Finis

Stan Lee Presents
THE SILVER SURFER
AS AN ANCIENT SUN IN A DYING GALAXY EXPLODES, A MAJESTIC SILVER FIGURE SURFS THE WAVES OF COSMIC FIRE WITH EASE, GRACE...
...AND UNUTTERABLE WONDER.
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
JOHN MARC DeMATTEIS
WRITER
BOB HALL, PENCILER
AL MILGROM, INKER
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN, COLORIST
JAYE GARDNER, EDITOR
BOB HARRAS, CHIEF


OUTRACING THE TSUNAMI OF DESTRUCTION, THE SILVER SURFER PONDERS THE CYCLES OF BIRTH AND DEATH AND RESURRECTION: HOW FROM THE ASHES OF THIS GALACTIC DISSOLUTION, NEW LIFE WILL INEVITABLY RISE.
AND HE IS ONCE AGAIN AWED AND HUMBLED BY THE DIVINITY THAT BIRTHED ALL THINGS-- AND BY THE SUBLIME RIDDLE THAT IS CREATION.
HOW LIKE THESE ERRANT METEORS, HE MUSES, SAILING ACROSS LIGHT YEARS, BREATHING IN STARDUST, ARE OUR LIVES.
CAST RANDOMLY ACROSS SPACE...WITH NO CLEAR DESTINATION IN MIND. NO SET PATH. WE MAY SAIL ON FOREVER-- OR BE SMASHED INTO ATOMS.
STREAK MAGNIFICENTLY ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY...
...ONLY TO BE CONSUMED IN FIRE AT THE HEIGHT OF OUR GLORY.
HE LEAVES THE METEORS BEHIND, DESCENDS INTO THE SWIRLING HEART OF A NEBULA... FEELING, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT, AS IF HE HAS PENETRATED THE HEART OF THE DIVINE MYSTERY ITSELF.
BUT, HE WONDERS, CAN WE EVER TRULY KNOW THE REASONS FOR OUR EXISTENCE? CAN WE EVER TRULY UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE HERE-- AND WHAT'S EXPECTED OF US?
PERHAPS, HE FINALLY CONCLUDES (KNOWING HE WILL RETURN TO THIS QUESTION AGAIN AND AGAIN AS LONG AS HE LIVES), WE DON'T NEED TO: PERHAPS THE MYSTERY ALONE...


...IS ANSWER ENOUGH.
BUT HIS MEDITATIONS ARE RUDELY INTERRUPTED...
...BY A GREAT ARMADA-- JUMPING OUT OF HYPER-SPACE.
THE SHIPS, CLEARLY ON A MISSION OF VIOLENCE (HE CAN ACTUALLY FEEL THE HATEFUL THOUGHTS OF THE ENTITIES WITHIN), BRISTLE WITH WEAPONS CAPABLE OF UNIMAGINABLE DESTRUCTION.
THE VERY SIGHT OF THEM MAKES HIM SICK AT HEART: DOWN THROUGH HIS LONG YEARS OF SPACEFARING, HE HAS WITNESSED THE ANIMAL FURY OF INNUMERABLE SPECIES.
WHY, HE WONDERS, MUST THIS PRISTINE UNIVERSE BE SCARRED BY MINDLESS RAGE AND BRUTALITY? WHY MUST CREATURES CONTINUE TO WAGE WAR UPON EACH OTHER-- IN THE NAME OF THEIR GODS AND IDEALS?
AS THEY OPEN FIRE ON HIM, HIS OWN RAGE RISES; HE COULD, HE KNOWS, OBLITERATE THEM ALL WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND.
BUT INSTEAD, WITH A HEAVY HEART HE RETREATS...
...WONDERING IF IT WOULD BE BETTER IF ALL THE UNIVERSES WERE CONSUMED IN A BALL OF FIRE; IF COSMIC LIFE WERE UTTERLY ERASED...

...IN A FINAL CONFLAGRATION?
HOW LONG HE BROODS, LOST IN SUCH DARK RUMINATIONS, THE SURFER CANNOT SAY-- BUT THE DARKNESS LIFTS...
...WHEN HE SEES THE EARTH RISING UP BEFORE HIM.
NO WORLD HE HAS EVER VISITED HAS SO ENCAPSULATED THE FIERCE DUALITY, THE MASSIVE CONTRADICTIONS, OF LIFE IN THIS UNIVERSE.
UNSPEAKABLE CRUELTY AND INEFFABLE SPIRITUALITY EXIST SIDE BY SIDE IN THE HEART OF HUMANKIND: A HUNGER FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION...
...MATCHED ONLY BY ITS PASSION FOR ART AND BEAUTY AND ETERNAL TRUTH.
MADMEN AND SAVIORS, MURDERERS AND SAINTS: ALL THESE ARE TO BE FOUND ON THIS INEXPLICABLE PLANET.
THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN THESE PARADOXES ARE TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO BEAR. COULD THE DIVINE HAND, HE SOMETIMES WONDERS, REALLY HAVE BROUGHT SUCH CONFUSION FORTH?
COULD A COMPASSIONATE CREATOR REALLY HAVE SHAPED SUCH A MAD-- AND MADDENING-- PLACE?
BUT, FOR ALL ITS CONTRADICTIONS, THE EARTH HAS BECOME HIS HOME; FOR IT IS HERE THAT THE SILVER SURFER HAS FOUND THE ONE THING THAT GIVES HIS LIFE TRUE PURPOSE:


ALICIA!
THEIR LOVE, HE REALIZES, IS WHAT LIES AT THE HEART OF THE DIVINE MYSTERY.
THEIR LOVE IS THE DOORWAY TO MEANING AND HOPE... AND GOD HIMSELF.
IN ALICIA'S EYES-- MORE EXPRESSIVE, IT OFTEN SEEMS, MORE ALIVE THAN ANY SIGHTED PERSON'S-- NORRIN RADD FINDS ALL THE ANSWERS TO ALL THE QUESTIONS SEERS, PROPHETS, AND PHILOSOPHERS HAVE ASKED SINCE TIME'S BEGINNINGLESS BEGINNING.
AND IN HER ARMS HE FINDS THE UNIVERSE. HE FINDS COMPLETION.
HE FINDS-- HIMSELF.
Finis

MARVEL Comics
SILVER SURFER
EXPLOSIVE FINAL ISSUE!
NOV #146
WWW.MARVEL.COM
GREENBERG
COWAN
FLOYD
The FURY OF FIRELORD!

ONCE HE WAS PYREUS KRIL, A MERE MORTAL AND NATIVE OF A FAR-FLUNG ALIEN WORLD.
NOW HE IS FIRELORD, WARRIOR OF THE COSMOS, GRANTED THE UNFATHOMABLE POWER COSMIC BY HIS FORMER MASTER, THE WORLD-DEVOURER KNOWN AS GALACTUS, FOR WHOM HE ONCE SERVED AS FAITHFUL HERALD.
HE HAS TRAVELED FROM ONE SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE TO THE OTHER, SEEN AND DONE THINGS THAT WOULD DRIVE A LESSER BEING INSANE FROM THE SHEER MAGNITUDE OF IT ALL.
IN HIS TIME, HE HAS EVEN ENTERED THE DARK REALM OF DEATH, BUT MANAGED TO EMERGE FROM IT WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF HIMSELF AND THE UNIVERSE AROUND HIM.
THUS HE HAS COME TO THE LUSH, BLUE PLANET OF EARTH, AND THE SMALL COUNTRY OF KAKISTIA, ON THE CONTINENT OF ASIA —
— TO CELEBRATE LIFE WITH THE VAST AND VARIED CREATURES THAT CAN BE FOUND ON THIS MOST UNIQUE OF WORLDS.
STAN LEE presents: THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE SILVER SURFER!
FIRE IN THE SKY
TOM DEFALCO plot
GLENN GREENBERG script
DENYS COWAN pencils
JOHN FLOYD inks
MICHAEL KRAIGER colors
RS & COMICRAFT's EMERSON MIRANDA letters
JAYE GARDNER editor
BOB HARRAS editor in chief

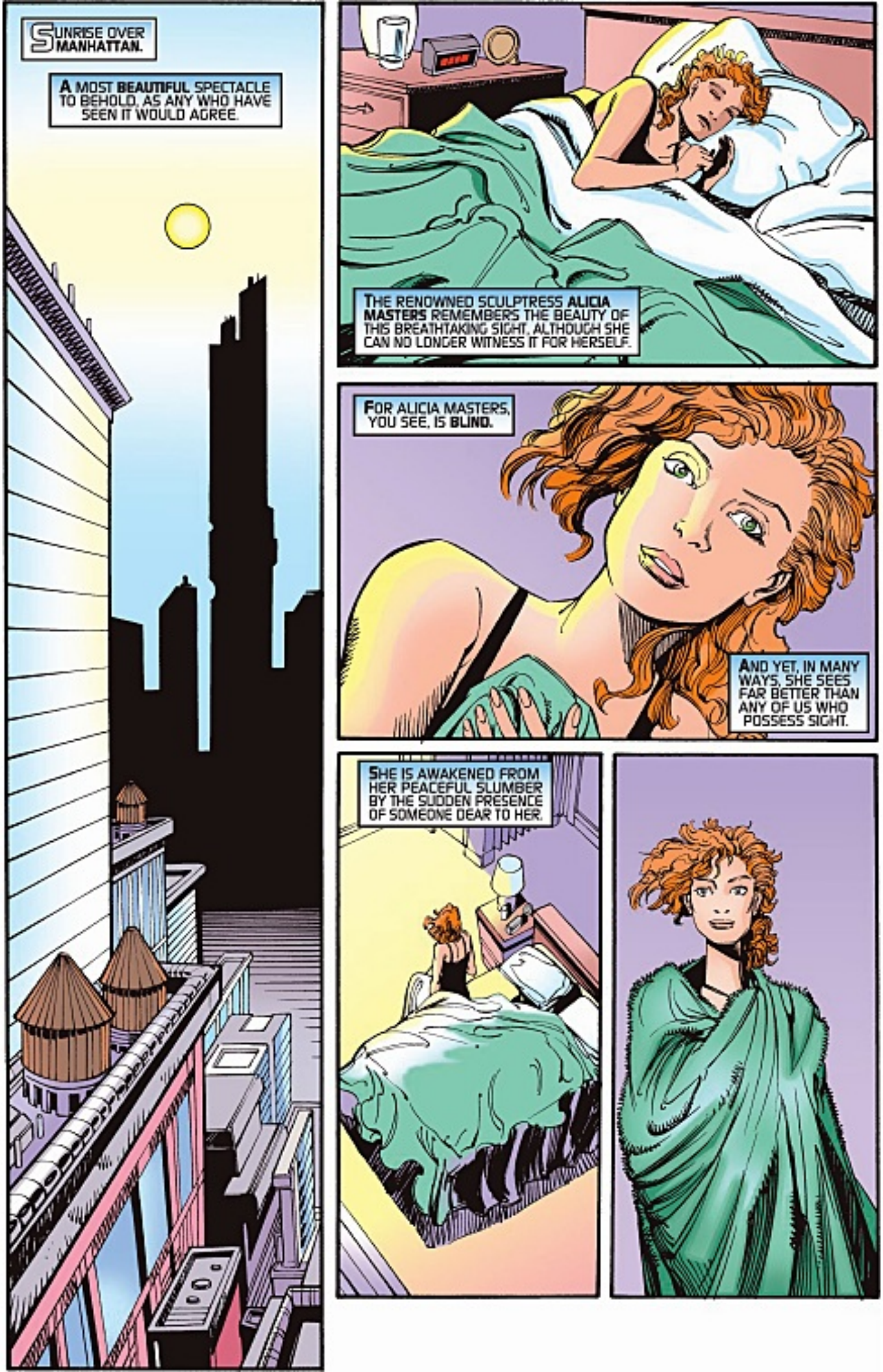
UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS A CELEBRATION THAT IS NOT DESTINED TO LAST MUCH LONGER.
A MILITARY BUNKER, SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
...IN THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM.
INSIDE...
...THAT'S IT, THEN, RAVI. EVERYTHING IS READY FOR THE TEST.
THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR OUR COUNTRY, DOCTOR NITAL!

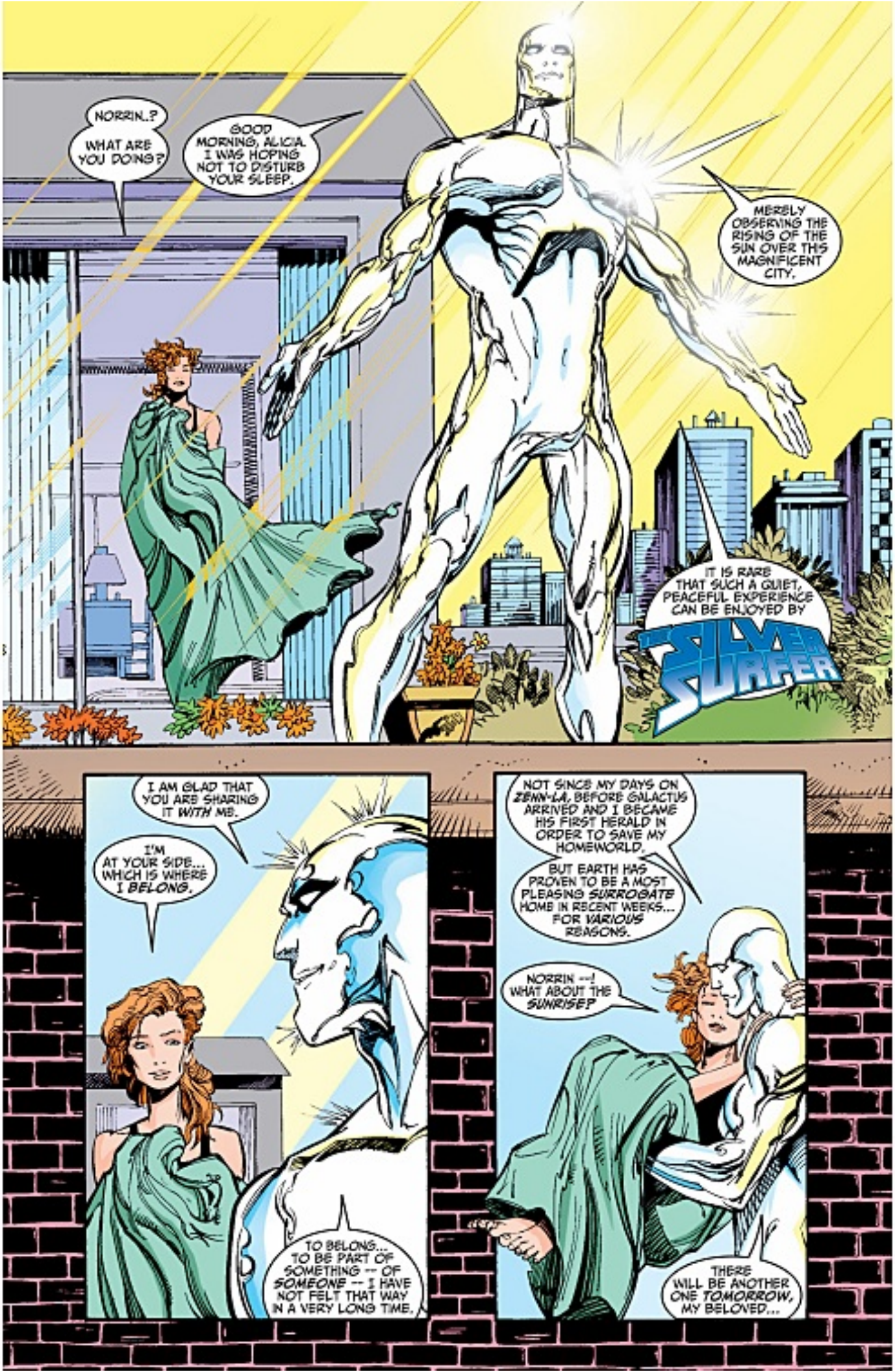
AFTER ALL, PAKISTAN AND INDIA HAVE BOTH RECENTLY TESTED NUCLEAR WEAPONS --
-- NOW IT IS KAKISTIA'S TURN!
I AM NOT SO SURE, RAVI.

DESPITE MY ROLE IN DEVELOPING THIS DEVICE, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF OUR COUNTRY IS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES -- THE CONSEQUENCES -- OF BECOMING A NUCLEAR POWER.
...
BEGIN THE COUNTDOWN.

MEANWHILE...
CURIOUS. THESE CREATURES HAVE SUDDENLY BECOME NERVOUS, TENSE...
...AS IF THEY SENSE SOME FRIGHTENING DOOM.
WHAT COULD BE FRIGHTENING THEM SO..?

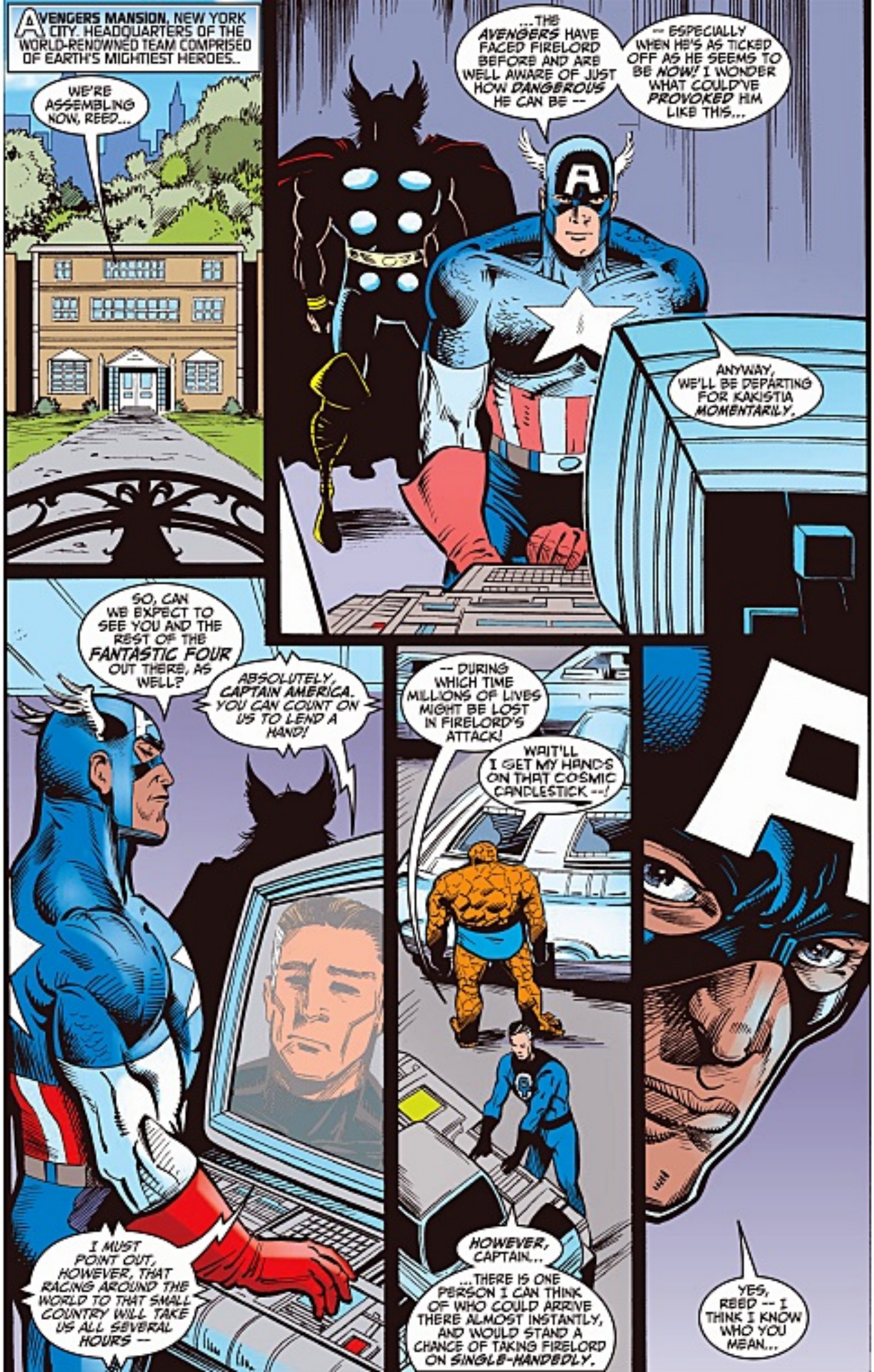
WHOOOOOM
A SEEMING ETERNITY LATER...
FWABOOM
WHO DID THIS?!
WHO CAUSED SUCH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION?!
THEY WILL PAY FOR THIS EVIL ACT AGAINST LIFE!
FIRELORD SWEARS IT!


SUNRISE OVER MANHATTAN.
A MOST BEAUTIFUL SPECTACLE TO BEHOLD, AS ANY WHO HAVE SEEN IT WOULD AGREE.
THE RENOWNED SCULPTRESS ALICIA MASTERS REMEMBERS THE BEAUTY OF THIS BREATHTAKING SIGHT, ALTHOUGH SHE CAN NO LONGER WITNESS IT FOR HERSELF.
FOR ALICIA MASTERS, YOU SEE, IS BLIND.
AND YET, IN MANY WAYS, SHE SEES FAR BETTER THAN ANY OF US WHO POSSESS SIGHT.
SHE IS AWAKENED FROM HER PEACEFUL SLUMBER BY THE SUDDEN PRESENCE OF SOMEONE DEAR TO HER.


NORRIN..?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GOOD MORNING, ALICIA. I WAS HOPING NOT TO DISTURB YOUR SLEEP.
MERELY OBSERVING THE RISING OF THE SUN OVER THIS MAGNIFICENT CITY.
IT IS RARE THAT SUCH A QUIET, PEACEFUL EXPERIENCE CAN BE ENJOYED BY
SILVER SURFER
I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE SHARING IT WITH ME.
I'M AT YOUR SIDE... WHICH IS WHERE I BELONG.
TO BELONG... TO BE PART OF SOMETHING -- OF SOMEONE -- I HAVE NOT FELT THAT WAY IN A VERY LONG TIME.
NOT SINCE MY DAYS ON ZENN-LA, BEFORE GALACTUS ARRIVED AND I BECAME HIS FIRST HERALD IN ORDER TO SAVE MY HOMEWORLD.
BUT EARTH HAS PROVEN TO BE A MOST PLEASING SURROGATE HOME IN RECENT WEEKS... FOR VARIOUS REASONS.
NORRIN --! WHAT ABOUT THE SUNRISE?
THERE WILL BE ANOTHER ONE TOMORROW, MY BELOVED...

KAKISTIA...
COME OUT, HUMANS! THIS BUNKER WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM ME!
I'LL BLAST IT TO PIECES IF I HAVE TO!
FZZAAAP
FFOOOMM
YOU MUST KNOW WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSION -- AND YOU WILL REVEAL THAT INFORMATION TO ME!
I DEMAND THEIR IMMEDIATE SURRENDER!
RAVI -- I'D BETTER GO OUT THERE, TALK TO HIM...
NO, DOCTOR NITAL -- YOU CAN'T!
YOU'D ONLY BE COMMITTING SUICIDE!
BESIDES, IT'S OUR LEADERS WHO ARE AT FAULT, NOT YOU!
MOVE!
THIS WAY, DOCTOR -- WE'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY!
DESPITE WHAT RAVI SAID -- IT'S ME THAT THIS FLAMING CREATURE WANTS!
HOW CAN I RUN TO SAFETY, KNOWING THAT THIS ATTACK IS THE RESULT OF MY CREATION?

NEW YORK CITY...
...SUCH VARIETY IN THIS CITY, ALICIA. SO MANY PEOPLE, SO MANY THINGS TO DO...
...SO MANY PLACES TO EXPLORE.
TRULY, I DID NOT APPRECIATE ALL THAT EARTH HAD TO OFFER DURING THE LONG PERIOD WHEN I WAS TRAPPED HERE BY GALACTUS.
THE FRUITS YOU WISHED TO PURCHASE...
SNIFF
YES! THEY SMELL SO NICE AND FRESH..!
IRONIC, THOUGH... CONSIDERING ALL THE BOUNTY THAT EXISTS ON THIS WORLD...
...IT IS CERTAINLY NOT SHARED EQUALLY AMONGST YOUR KIND.
SURFER..?
FORGIVE ME, ALICIA, BUT MY ATTENTION HAS SUDDENLY BEEN DIVERTED...
...BY AN IMAGE ON THE "TELEVISION" DEVICE IN THAT STOREFRONT WINDOW.
AN IMAGE BOTH FAMILIAR...
...AND TROUBLING.


AVENGERS MANSION, NEW YORK CITY. HEADQUARTERS OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED TEAM COMPRISED OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...
WE'RE ASSEMBLING NOW, REED...
...THE AVENGERS HAVE FACED FIRELORD BEFORE AND ARE WELL AWARE OF JUST HOW DANGEROUS HE CAN BE --
-- ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S AS TICKED OFF AS HE SEEMS TO BE NOW! I WONDER WHAT COULD'VE PROVOKED HIM LIKE THIS...
ANYWAY, WE'LL BE DEPARTING FOR KAKISTIA MOMENTARILY.
SO, CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE YOU AND THE REST OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR OUT THERE, AS WELL?
ABSOLUTELY, CAPTAIN AMERICA. YOU CAN COUNT ON US TO LEND A HAND!
-- DURING WHICH TIME MILLIONS OF LIVES MIGHT BE LOST IN FIRELORD'S ATTACK!
WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT COSMIC CANDLESTICK --!
I MUST POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT RACING AROUND THE WORLD TO THAT SMALL COUNTRY WILL TAKE US ALL SEVERAL HOURS --
HOWEVER, CAPTAIN...
...THERE IS ONE PERSON I CAN THINK OF WHO COULD ARRIVE THERE ALMOST INSTANTLY, AND WOULD STAND A CHANCE OF TAKING FIRELORD ON SINGLE-HANDEDLY.
YES, REED -- I THINK I KNOW WHO YOU MEAN...

AFTER REED RICHARDS PLACES A QUICK PHONE CALL TO ALICIA MASTERS..
...NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.
SURFER, YOU HAVE TO GO TO KAKISTIA TO STOP FIRELORD'S ATTACK...
...AND I'M GOING WITH YOU!
I WILL CONFRONT FIRELORD. ON THAT MATTER I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU...
...BUT YOU CANNOT COME WITH ME. IT IS MUCH TOO DANGEROUS.
THIS IS MY WORLD, SURFER.
AND I'M ONE OF THE REASONS WHY YOU'RE STAYING HERE, AREN'T I?
IF YOU GO, I WANT TO SHARE IN THE DANGER -- AND THE RESPONSIBILITY!
I BELONG AT YOUR SIDE... REMEMBER?
-SIGH- VERY WELL, ALICIA.
YOU MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO REFUSE YOU.
DON'T FEEL TOO BAD, SURFER --
-- IT'S A POWER QUITE A FEW OF US EARTH WOMEN HAVE OVER MEN..!
LOOK --!
MUST BE FILMIN' A MOVIE OR SOMETHIN' --!

THE SKIES OVER KAKISTIA...
VOOOSH
FWABOOOSH
BOOM
SO, HUMANS, YOU OFFER *RESISTANCE* AGAINST ME?
OBSERVE HOW *FUTILE* YOUR EFFORTS ARE!
"THE POWER COSMIC CANNOT BE CHALLENGED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!"
MEANWHILE, IN THE MILITARY BUNKER...
...HE'S DESTROYING ALL OF OUR EQUIPMENT, GENERAL -- BLOWING ALL OF OUR JETS OUT OF THE SKY!
SO FAR, THOUGH, NO LOSS OF LIFE.
THAT WON'T LAST! THERE MUST BE *SOME* WAY TO STOP THIS INSANE CREATURE!
THAT *COMPLEX* UP AHEAD -- THE MILITARY FORCES ATTACKING ME ORIGINATE FROM *THERE!*
THEY MUST KNOW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSION -- OR THEY WERE BEHIND IT *THEMSELVES!*
THEY WILL REVEAL THE *TRUTH* TO ME -- OR THEY WILL ALL *SUFFER!*

AND A COSMIC BOLT FROM MY FIRE-STAFF SHOULD SHOW THESE PUNY BEINGS THAT MY INTENTIONS ARE SINCERE!
FZZAPPLZZ
WHAT --?!
WHO WOULD DARE TO DEFY MY RIGHTEOUS WRATH?!
ONE OF THE FEW WHO CAN, FIRELORD.
YOU?!
WHY ARE YOU INTERFERING?!
SO THAT YOU MAY BE LED AWAY FROM THIS PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

NO!
KKAHH
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE...
...BUT I CAN HEAR THAT FIRELORD IS HALF-CRAZED WITH ANGER! WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ENRAGE HIM SO..?
THERE MUST BE RETRIBUTION FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE!
PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO EXPLAIN..?
WHUMP
THESE FOOLISH EARTHERS WILLINGLY DESTROY THEIR OWN WORLD, SURFER!
THEY CALLOUSLY EXTERMINATE THE INNOCENT LIFE FORMS THAT ALSO LIVE HERE!
LIFE IS TOO PRECIOUS TO BE SO CARELESSLY DISREGARDED!
UNGHN!

I HAVE RECENTLY FELT THE COLD STING OF DEATH, SURFER!* I HAVE WALKED ITS DARK CORRIDORS --
-- AND HAVING ESCAPED ITS CLUTCHES, I KNOW THAT IT IS NOT TO BE SO RECKLESSLY TEMPTED!
THESE FOOLS MUST BE TAUGHT TO RESPECT DEATH -- AND LIFE, AS WELL!
IF YOU CAME ALL THE WAY TO EARTH TO TEACH THAT LESSON TO THE HUMANS, FIRELORD --
-- YOU ARE SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT!
*WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #'S 37-38 -- JAYE.

IT WILL REQUIRE FAR MORE THAN YOUR RAVING TO TAKE THIS SPECIES BEYOND THEIR DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCIES!
THEY WILL GET THERE, SOMEDAY -- BUT ON THEIR OWN TERMS!

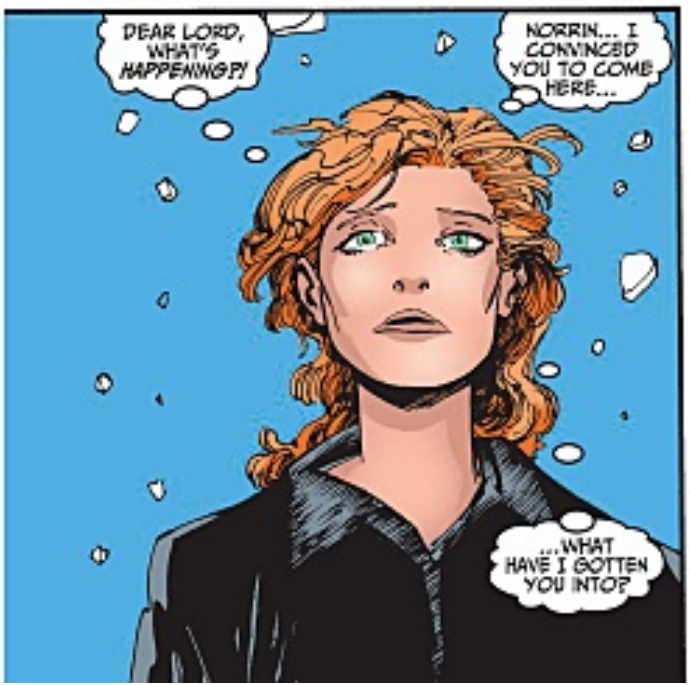
ASSUMING THEY SURVIVE THAT LONG!
THEY MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVASTATING POWER AT THEIR COMMAND!

WE ARE BEING JUDGED -- FOR OUR ARROGANCE!

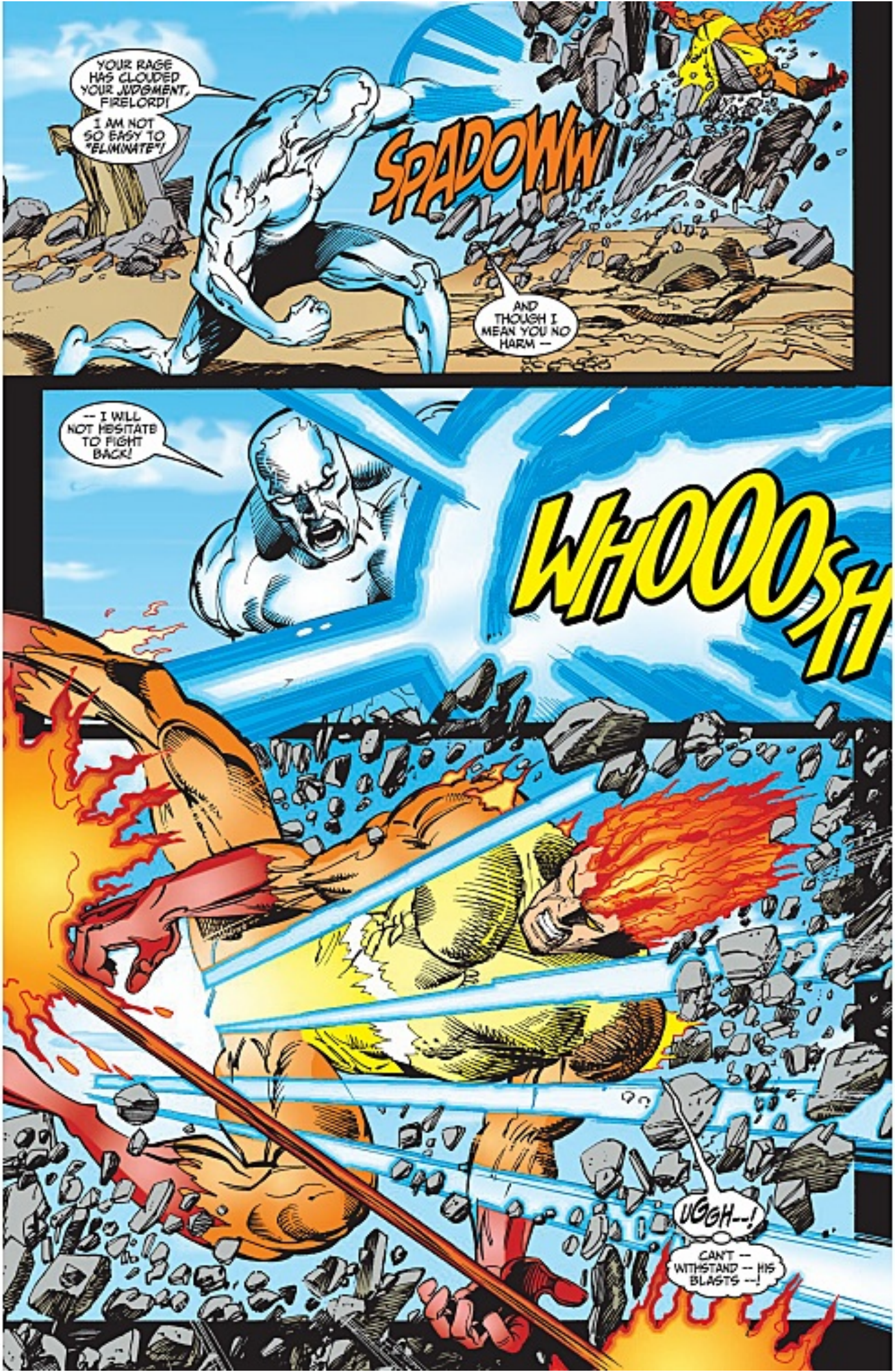
AND IF THEY WON'T --
-- THEY MUST PAY THE PRICE!

AND WHO IS TO COLLECT ON THAT PRICE, FIRELORD? YOU?
NOT WHILE I STILL DRAW BREATH!
WHY DO YOU STAND AGAINST ME, NORRIN RADD?
YOU HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH ME THAN WITH THESE BARTHERS!
WE WERE BOTH HERALDS TO GALACTUS!
YES! BUT AS HIS HERALD, I STOOD AGAINST HIM -- I BETRAYED MY MASTER --
-- SO THAT THIS WORLD MIGHT BE SPARED!
I WILL NOT SEE IT RAVAGED BY ONE OF MY SUCCESSORS!
YOU DID NOT SEE WHAT I HAVE SEEN TODAY!
YOU DID NOT SEE THE CALLOUS SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENCE, OF NATURE AND ALL ITS PURITY!
AND IF YOU INSIST ON BEING AN IMPEDIMENT --

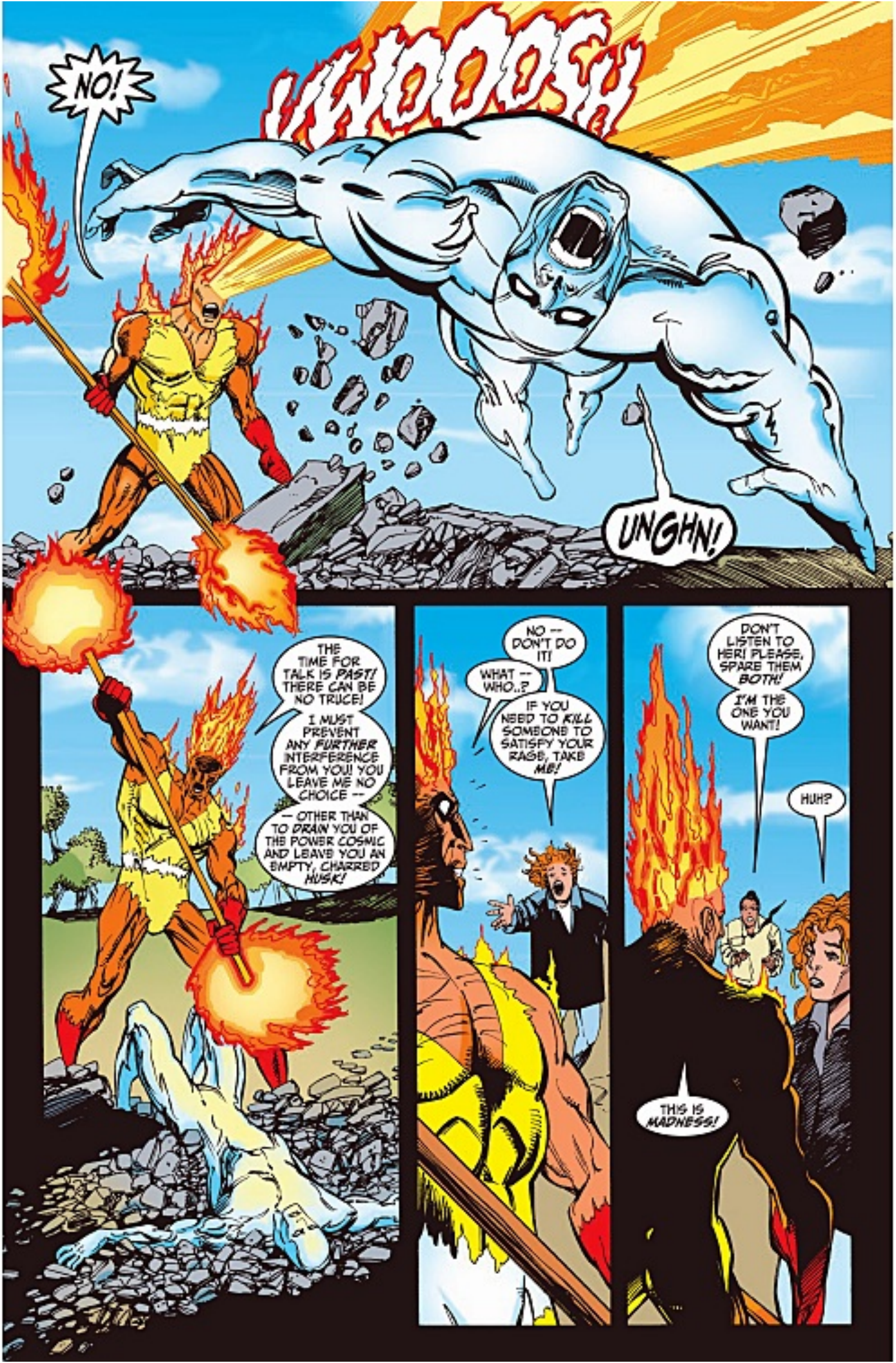
— THEN YOU MUST BE ELIMINATED!
PAKROOOOM!
AAAGH!
SUCH FURY — OVERWHELMING IN ITS POWER —!


DEAR LORD, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
NORRIN... I CONVINCED YOU TO COME HERE...
...WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN YOU INTO?

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.
SOMEONE MUST STOP THIS MADNESS...
...AND IT LOOKS LIKE THAT SOMEONE MUST BE ME.

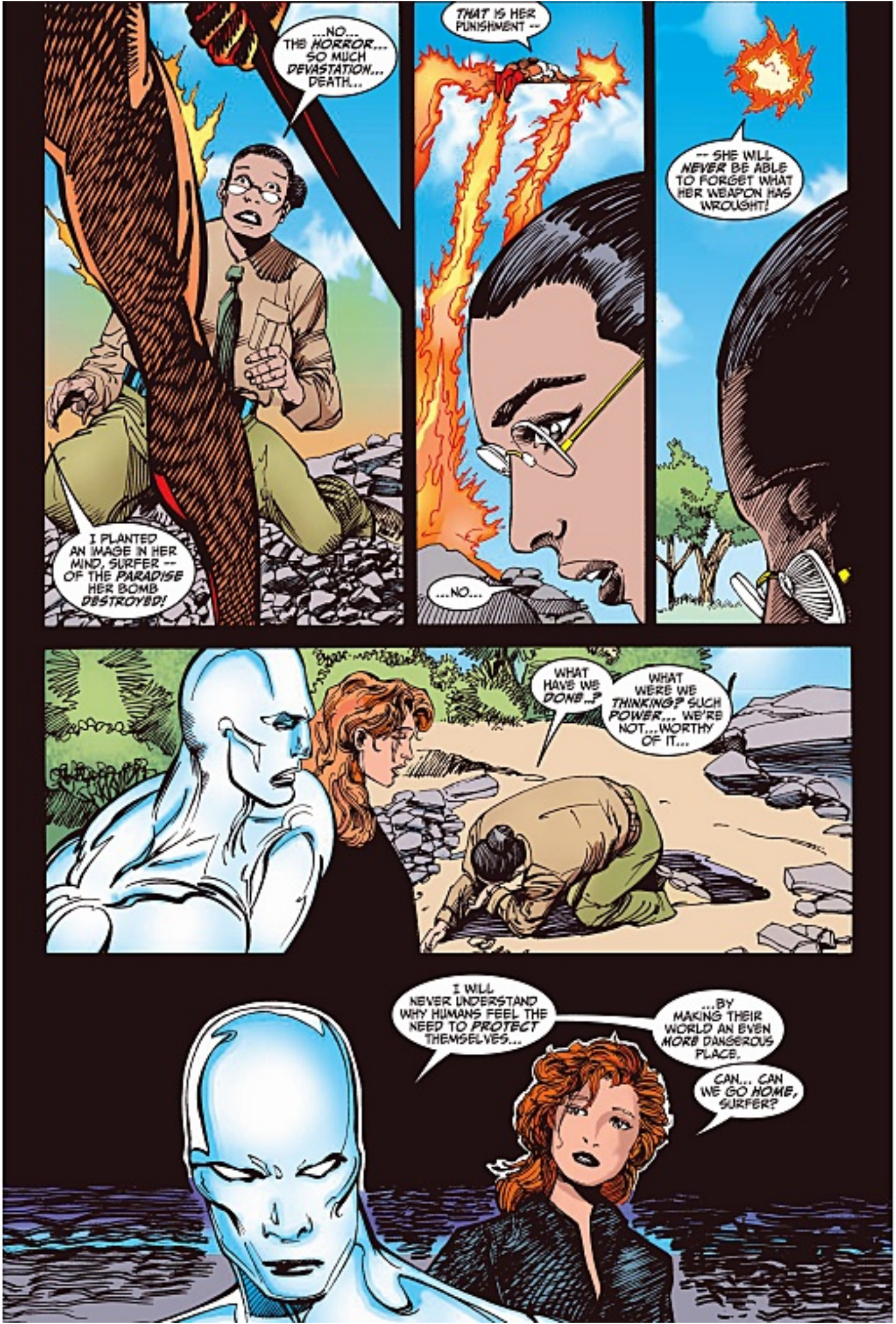

YOUR RAGE HAS CLOUDED YOUR JUDGMENT, FIRELORD!
I AM NOT SO EASY TO "ELIMINATE"!
SPADOWW
AND THOUGH I MEAN YOU NO HARM —
— I WILL NOT HESITATE TO FIGHT BACK!
WHOOSH
UGGH--!
CAN'T — WITHSTAND -- HIS BLASTS --!

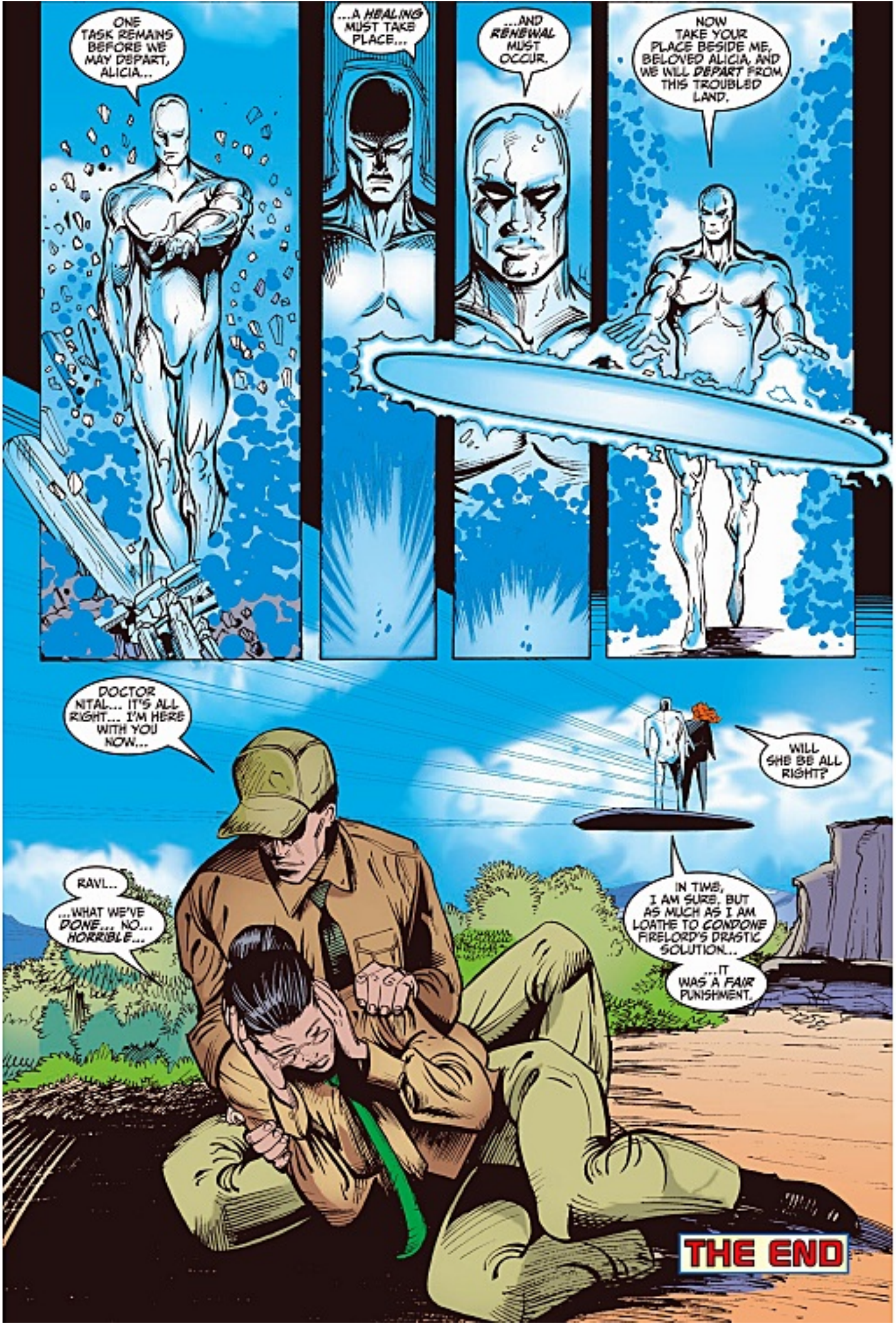
FIRELORD... PYREUS KRIL... I DO NOT WISH TO PROLONG THIS BATTLE.
YOU WERE CORRECT IN THAT WE *DO* HAVE MUCH IN COMMON.
LET US PUT ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES AND CALMLY DISCUSS THIS.
I OFFER YOU MY HAND IN *TRUCE* -- A CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILITIES BETWEEN US.
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND A *PEACEFUL* SOLUTION... TOGETHER.


NO!
WHOOSH
UNGHN!
THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST! THERE CAN BE NO TRUCE!
I MUST PREVENT ANY FURTHER INTERFERENCE FROM YOU! YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE --
-- OTHER THAN TO DRAIN YOU OF THE POWER COSMIC AND LEAVE YOU AN EMPTY, CHARRED HUSK!
NO -- DON'T DO IT!
WHAT -- WHO..?
IF YOU NEED TO KILL SOMEONE TO SATISFY YOUR RAGE, TAKE ME!
DON'T LISTEN TO HER! PLEASE, SPARE THEM BOTH!
I'M THE ONE YOU WANT!
HUH?
THIS IS MADNESS!

YES -- AND I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MADNESS!
I DEVELOPED THE NUCLEAR DEVICE THAT WAS TESTED TODAY -- I'M TO BLAME FOR ALL THE DESTRUCTION!
MY COUNTRY SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THIS REGION -- TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES!
BUT IF SOMEONE IS TO PAY THE PRICE FOR OUR ACTIONS --
-- IT MUST BE ME!
VERY WELL, WOMAN -- IT SHALL BE DONE!
WAIT!
FIRELORD -- ARE YOU TRULY WILLING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY -- TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES --
-- FOR THE ACTION YOU ARE ABOUT TO COMMIT?
EVERY SUPER-POWERED HERO ON THIS WORLD -- ALL OF EARTH'S GOVERNMENTS -- WILL CONDEMN AND PERSECUTE YOU FOR COMMITTING COLD-BLOODED MURDER --
-- AS WILL I!

IF YOU HARM THIS WOMAN, YOU'LL NEVER FIND A MOMENT'S PEACE HERE AGAIN --
-- AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE UNIVERSE IF NEED BE, TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!
BLAST YOU, SURFER! SHE MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HER ACTIONS!
AND NOTHING WILL STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT I MUST!
FSHOOM
NOOO!
UGGH--!
YOU ARE FINISHED, FIRELORD! I WILL TAKE YOU DOWN AT ANY COST!
SURFER!
ALICIA..?
THIS WOMAN IS STILL ALIVE, SURFER -- FIRELORD DIDN'T KILL HER!
UHHH...
INDEED... SHE DOES STILL LIVE...
...THEN WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, FIRELORD?


...NO... THE HORROR... SO MUCH DEVASTATION... DEATH...
I PLANTED AN IMAGE IN HER MIND, SURFER -- OF THE PARADISE HER BOMB DESTROYED!
THAT IS HER PUNISHMENT --
...NO...
-- SHE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET WHAT HER WEAPON HAS WROUGHT!
WHAT HAVE WE DONE...?
WHAT WERE WE THINKING? SUCH POWER... WE'RE NOT...WORTHY OF IT...
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY HUMANS FEEL THE NEED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES...
...BY MAKING THEIR WORLD AN EVEN MORE DANGEROUS PLACE.
CAN... CAN WE GO HOME, SURFER?


ONE TASK REMAINS BEFORE WE MAY DEPART, ALICIA...
...A HEALING MUST TAKE PLACE...
...AND RENEWAL MUST OCCUR.
NOW TAKE YOUR PLACE BESIDE ME, BELOVED ALICIA, AND WE WILL DEPART FROM THIS TROUBLED LAND.
DOCTOR NITAL... IT'S ALL RIGHT... I'M HERE WITH YOU NOW...
WILL SHE BE ALL RIGHT?
RAVL...
...WHAT WE'VE DONE... NO... HORRIBLE...
IN TIME, I AM SURE, BUT AS MUCH AS I AM LOATHE TO CONDONE FIRELORD'S DRASTIC SOLUTION...
...IT WAS A FAIR PUNISHMENT.
THE END

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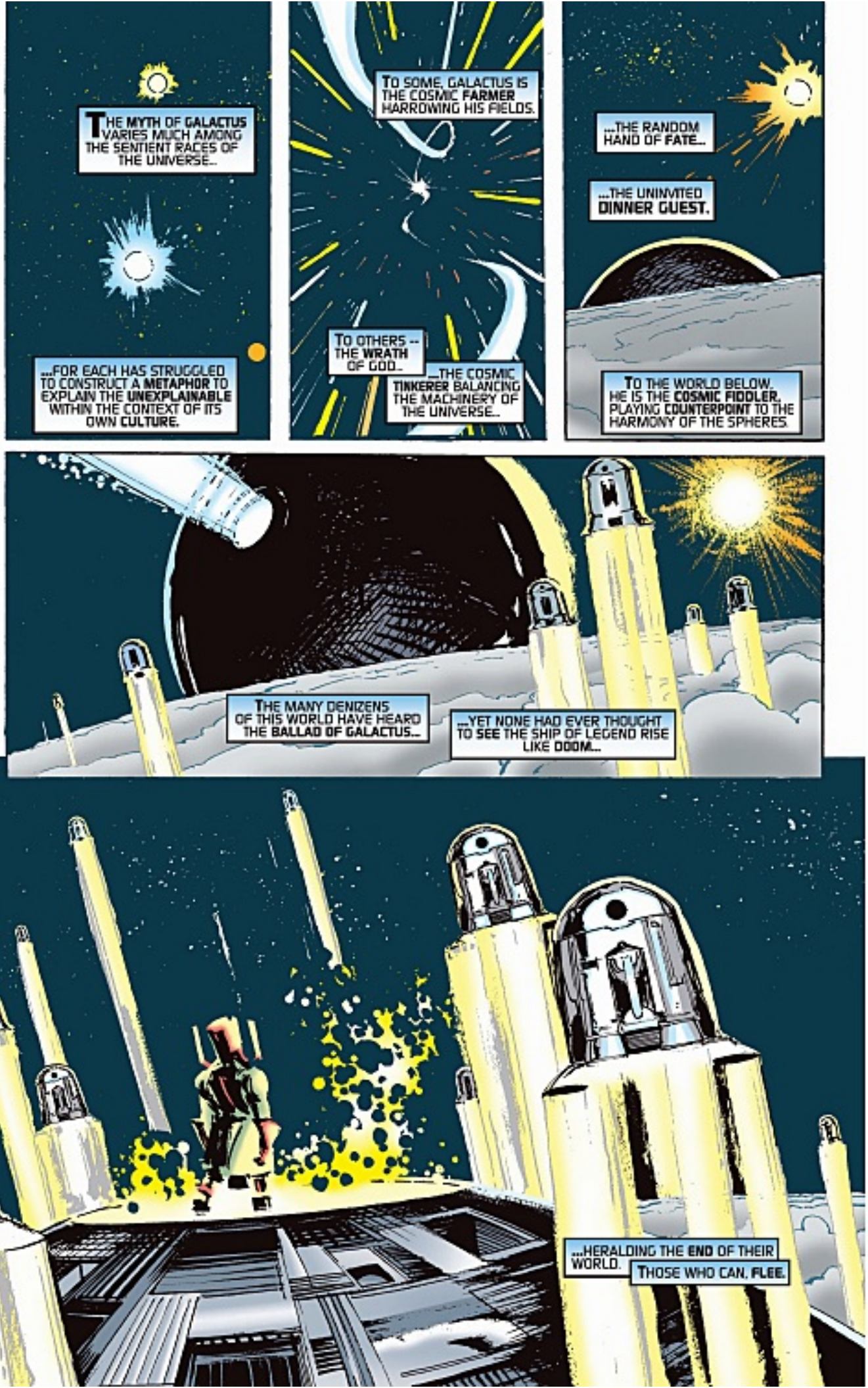
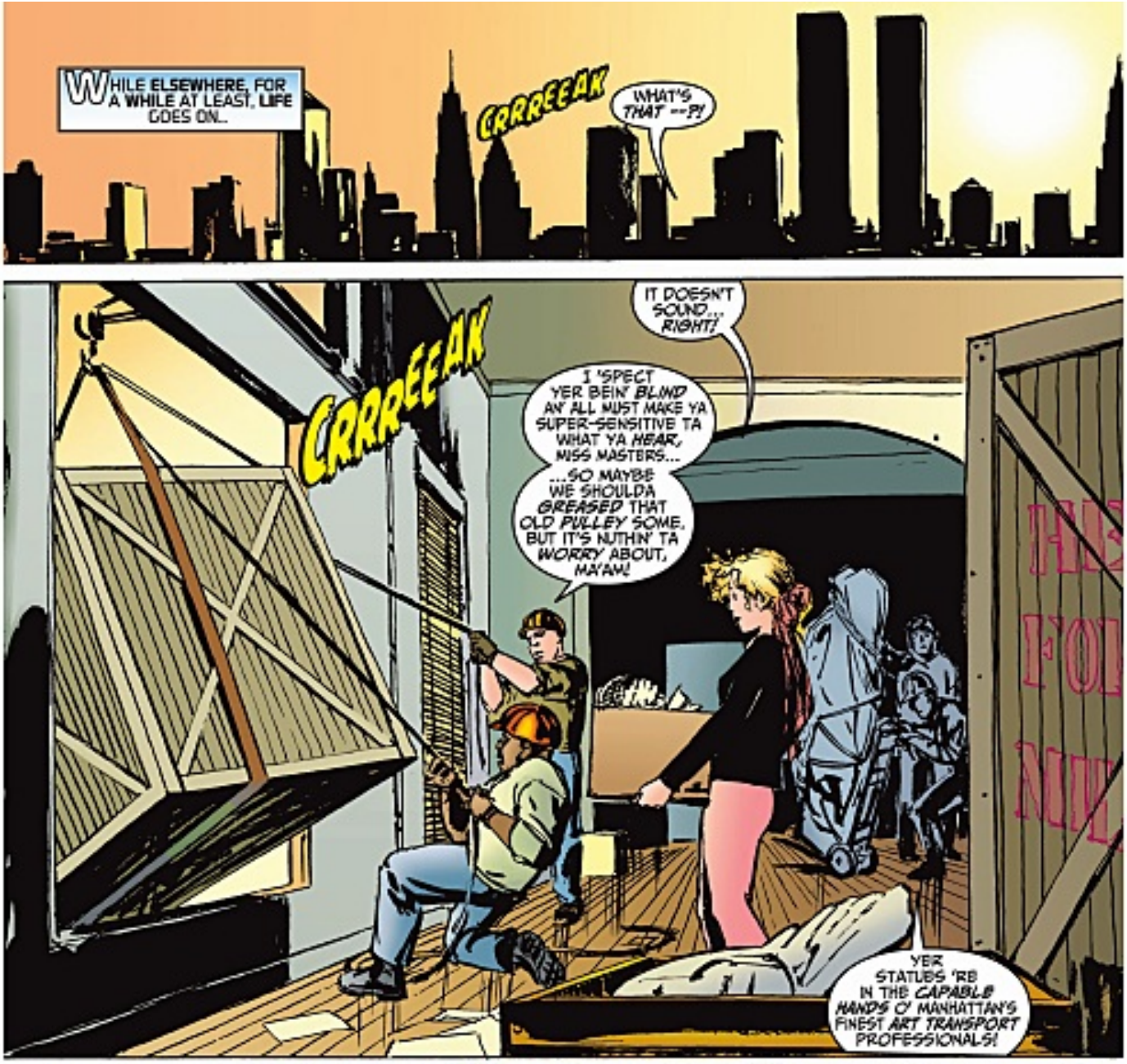
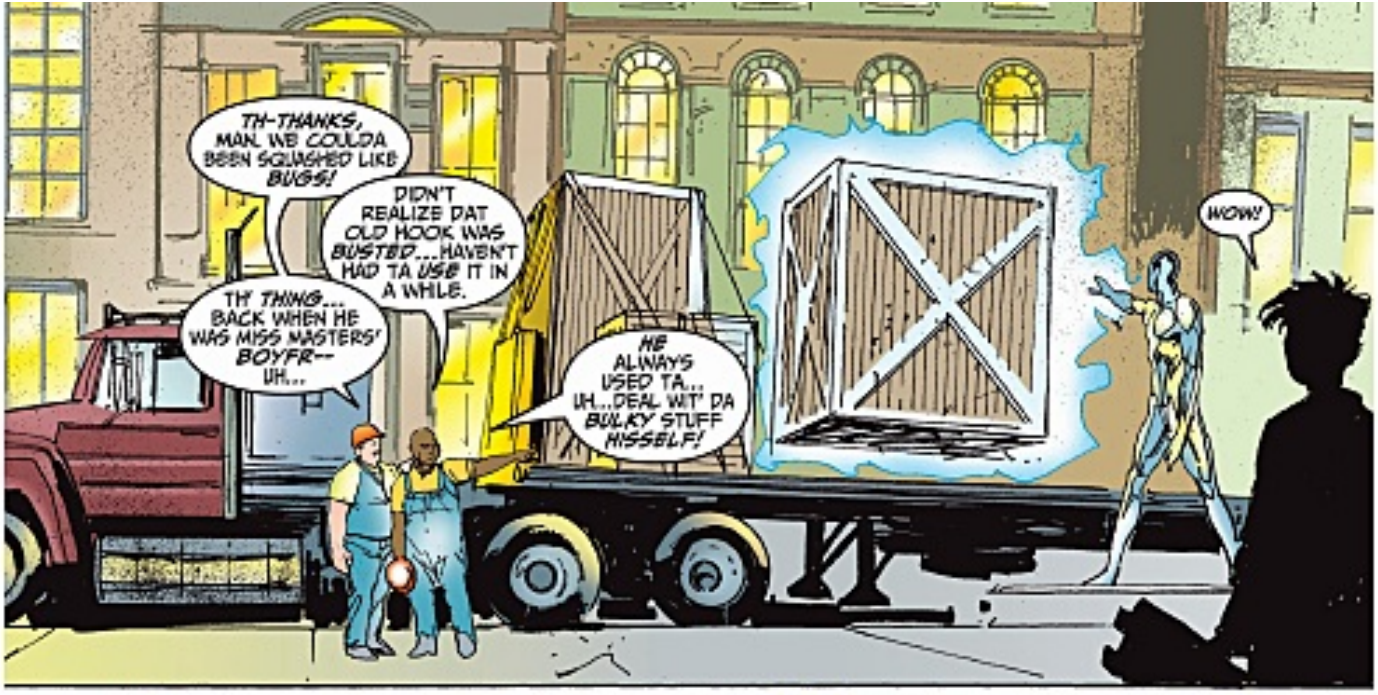

THE MYTH OF GALACTUS VARIES MUCH AMONG THE SENTIENT RACES OF THE UNIVERSE...
...FOR EACH HAS STRUGGLED TO CONSTRUCT A METAPHOR TO EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ITS OWN CULTURE.
TO SOME, GALACTUS IS THE COSMIC FARMER HARROWING HIS FIELDS.
TO OTHERS -- THE WRATH OF GOD...
...THE COSMIC TINKERER BALANCING THE MACHINERY OF THE UNIVERSE...
...THE RANDOM HAND OF FATE...
...THE UNINVITED DINNER GUEST.
TO THE WORLD BELOW, HE IS THE COSMIC FIDDLER, PLAYING COUNTERPOINT TO THE HARMONY OF THE SPHERES.
THE MANY DENIZENS OF THIS WORLD HAVE HEARD THE BALLAD OF GALACTUS...
...YET NONE HAD EVER THOUGHT TO SEE THE SHIP OF LEGEND RISE LIKE DOOM...
...HERALDING THE END OF THEIR WORLD.
THOSE WHO CAN, FLEE.

THOSE WHO CAN'T, DISCOVER LIFE'S SWEET MELODY HAS BECOME A FUNERAL DIRGE.
BLOOD CEASES ITS RHYTHMIC BEAT...
...AND ENERGY TURNS TO ENTROPY...
...AS THE CHORISTERS OF THIS WORLD...
...FALL SILENT.
AND THE MUSIC OF THEIR SOULS IS DRAWN UPWARD...

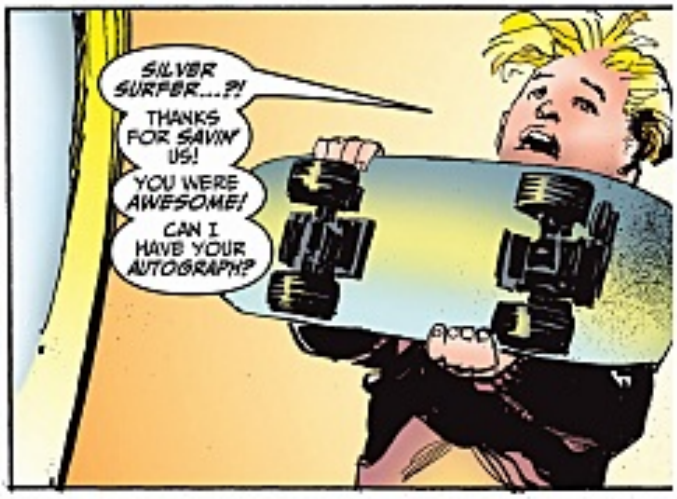
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
HUNGER!
LOUISE SIMONSON
WRITER
JON J MUTH
BREAKDOWNS
BILL SIENKIEWICZ
FINISHES
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORS
RS&COMICRAFT
LETTERS
BRIAN SMITH
ASSIST. ED.
BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF
...TO BE CONSUMED BY THE MASTER OF THE SHIP, WHO LOOMS ABOVE THEM, BATHED IN DULCET ECSTASY.


WHILE ELSEWHERE, FOR A WHILE AT LEAST, LIFE GOES ON..
CRRREEAK
WHAT'S THAT ---?!
CRRREEAK
I 'SPECT YER BEIN' BLIND AN' ALL MUST MAKE YA SUPER-SENSITIVE TA WHAT YA HEAR, MISS MASTERS...
...SO MAYBE WE SHOULDA GREASED THAT OLD PULLEY SOME, BUT IT'S NUTHIN' TA WORRY ABOUT, MA'AM!
IT DOESN'T SOUND... RIGHT!
YER STATUES 'RE IN THE CAPABLE HANDS O' MANHATTAN'S FINEST ART TRANSPORT PROFESSIONALS!
CREEEEK
AWRIGHT, WE'RE IN POSITION! LET 'ER RIP --!
SNAP!
GET BACK!
MOVE!

HEROES FOR THE MILLENIUM
FANTASTIC FOUR
I HAVE IT!
SWEET MOTHER O' MERCY! IT'S DA SILVER SURFER!


TH-THANKS, MAN. WE COULDA BEEN SQUASHED LIKE BUGS!
DIDN'T REALIZE DAT OLD HOOK WAS BUSTED...HAVEN'T HAD TA USE IT IN A WHILE.
TH' THING... BACK WHEN HE WAS MISS MASTERS' BOYFR-- UH...
HE ALWAYS USED TA... UH...DEAL WIT' DA BULKY STUFF HISSELF!
WOW!

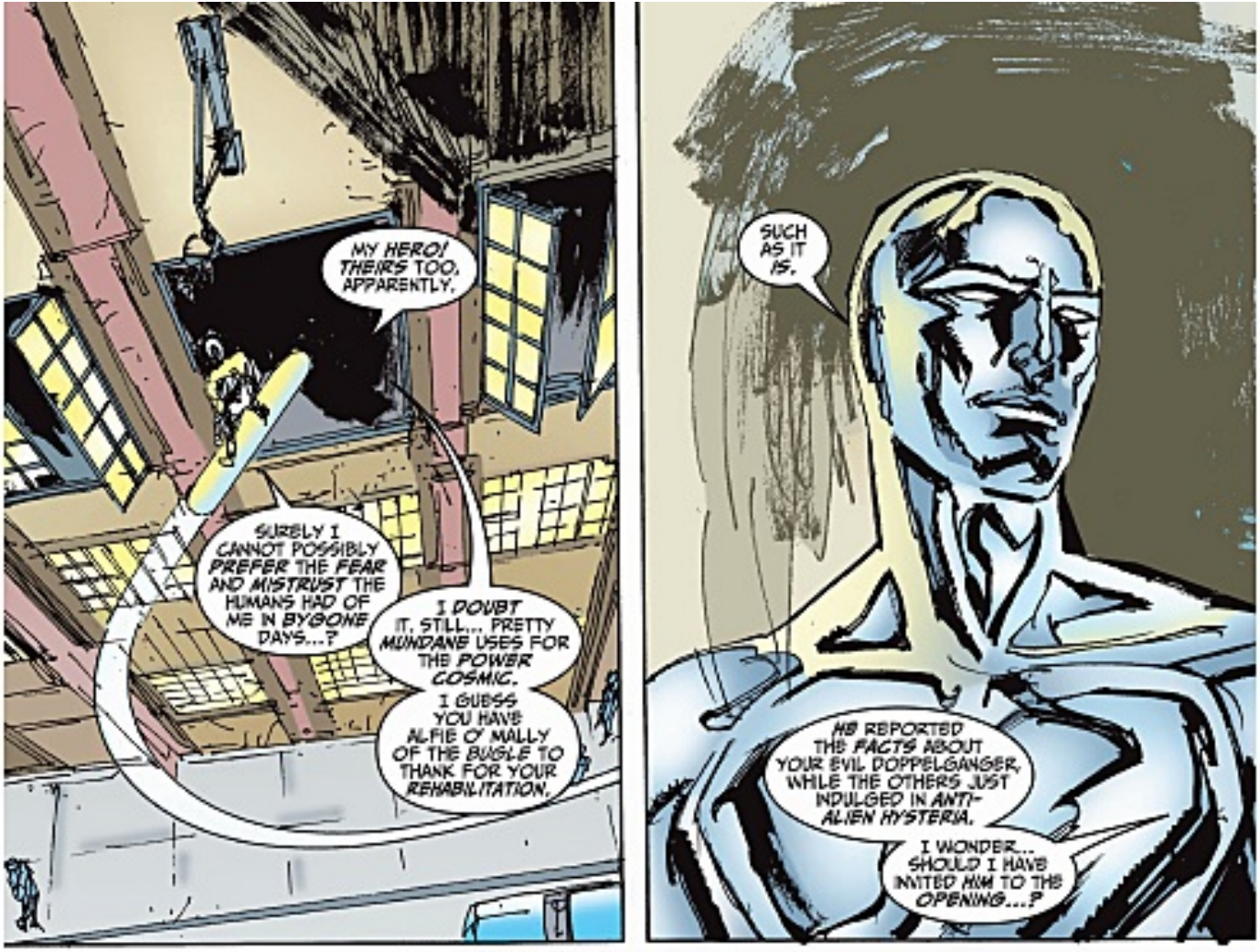
N-NOT... ULP!... DAT WE UH...EVER THOUGHT DA TWO OF 'EM WAS... WAS RIGHT FER EACH OTHER...

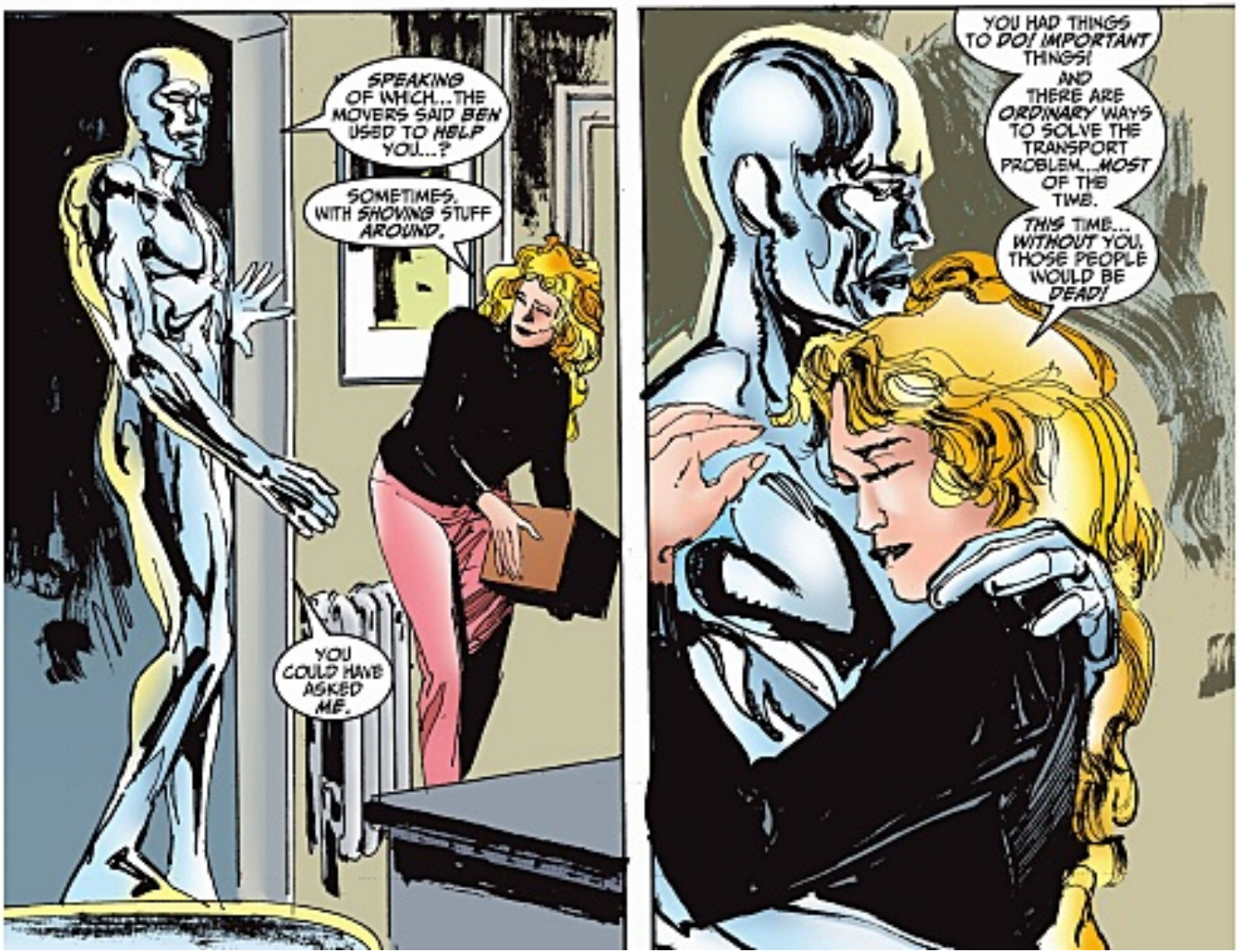

SILVER SURFER...?!
THANKS FOR SAVIN' US!
YOU WERE AWESOME!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

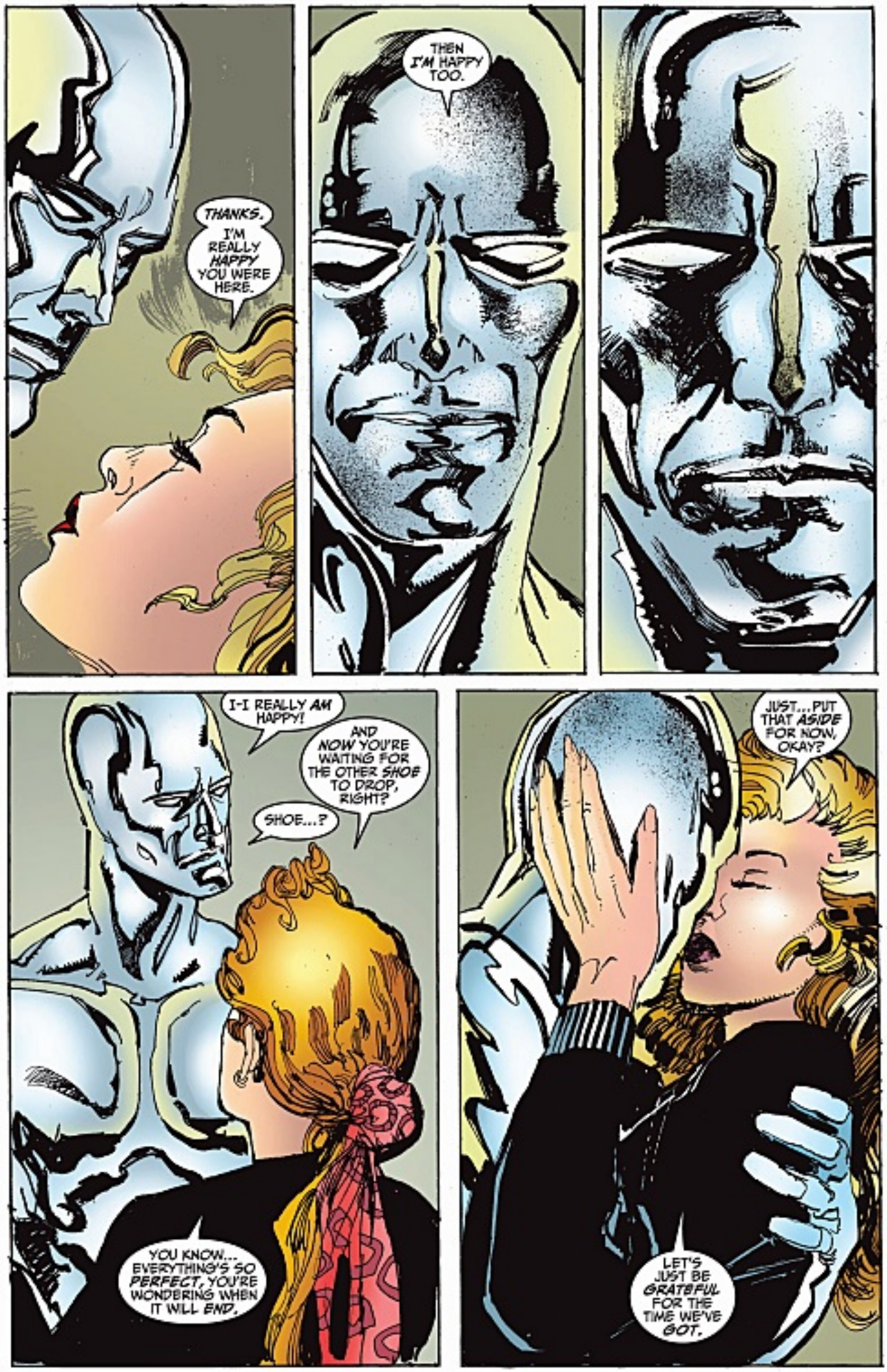
RIGHT HERE...!

I GOT A MARKER...!?
HEY! COOL!

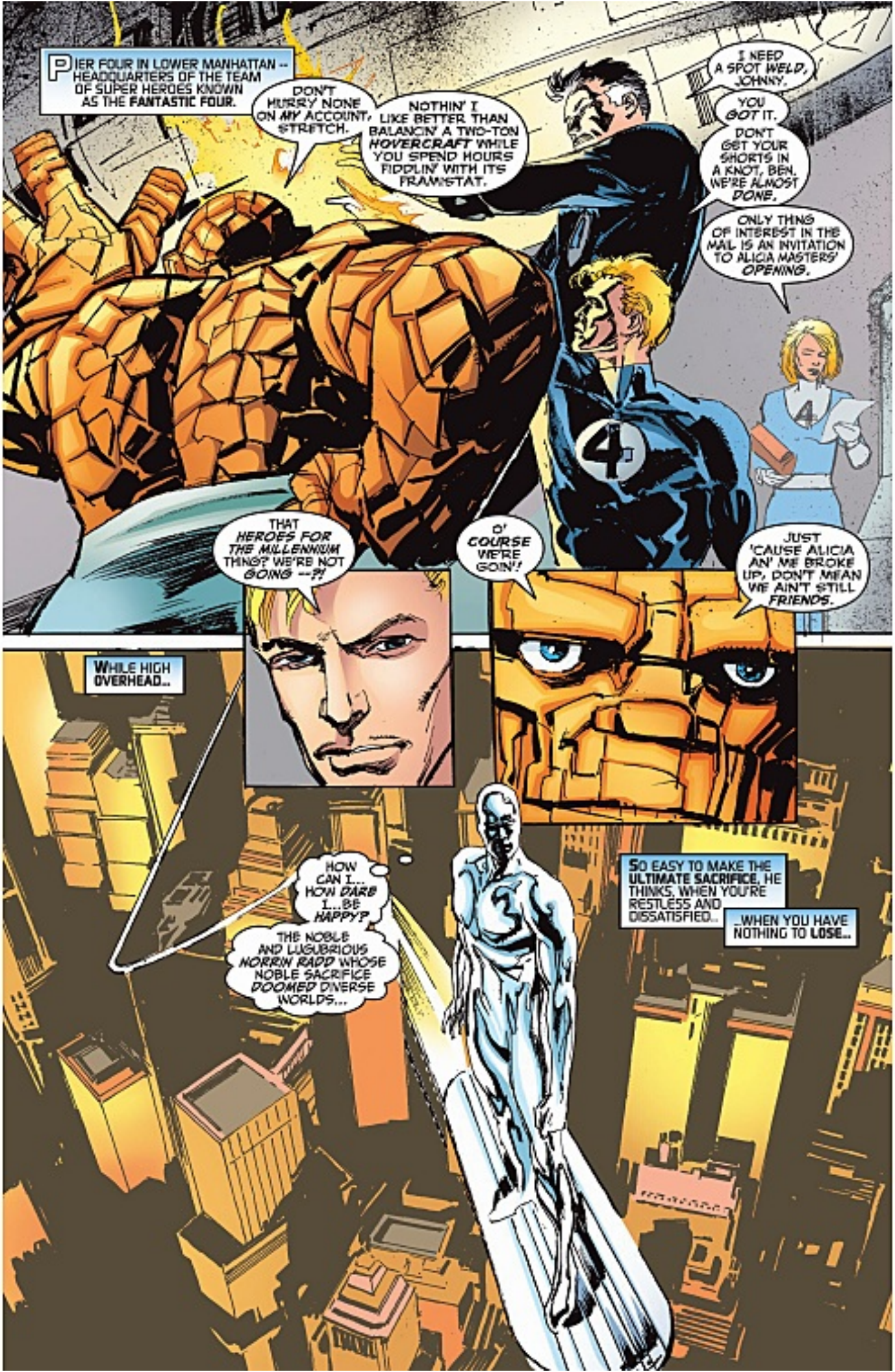
DAT DERE IS DA SILVER SURFER, KID!
GUESS HE DON'T NEED NO BLINKIN' MARKER!
SILVER SURFER


MY HERO! THEIRS TOO, APPARENTLY.
SURELY I CANNOT POSSIBLY PREFER THE FEAR AND MISTRUST THE HUMANS HAD OF ME IN BYGONE DAYS...?
I DOUBT IT. STILL... PRETTY MUNDANE USES FOR THE POWER COSMIC.
I GUESS YOU HAVE ALFIE O' MALLY OF THE BUGLE TO THANK FOR YOUR REHABILITATION.
SUCH AS IT IS.
HE REPORTED THE FACTS ABOUT YOUR EVIL DOPPELGANGER, WHILE THE OTHERS JUST INDULGED IN ANTI-ALIEN HYSTERIA.
I WONDER... SHOULD I HAVE INVITED HIM TO THE OPENING...?

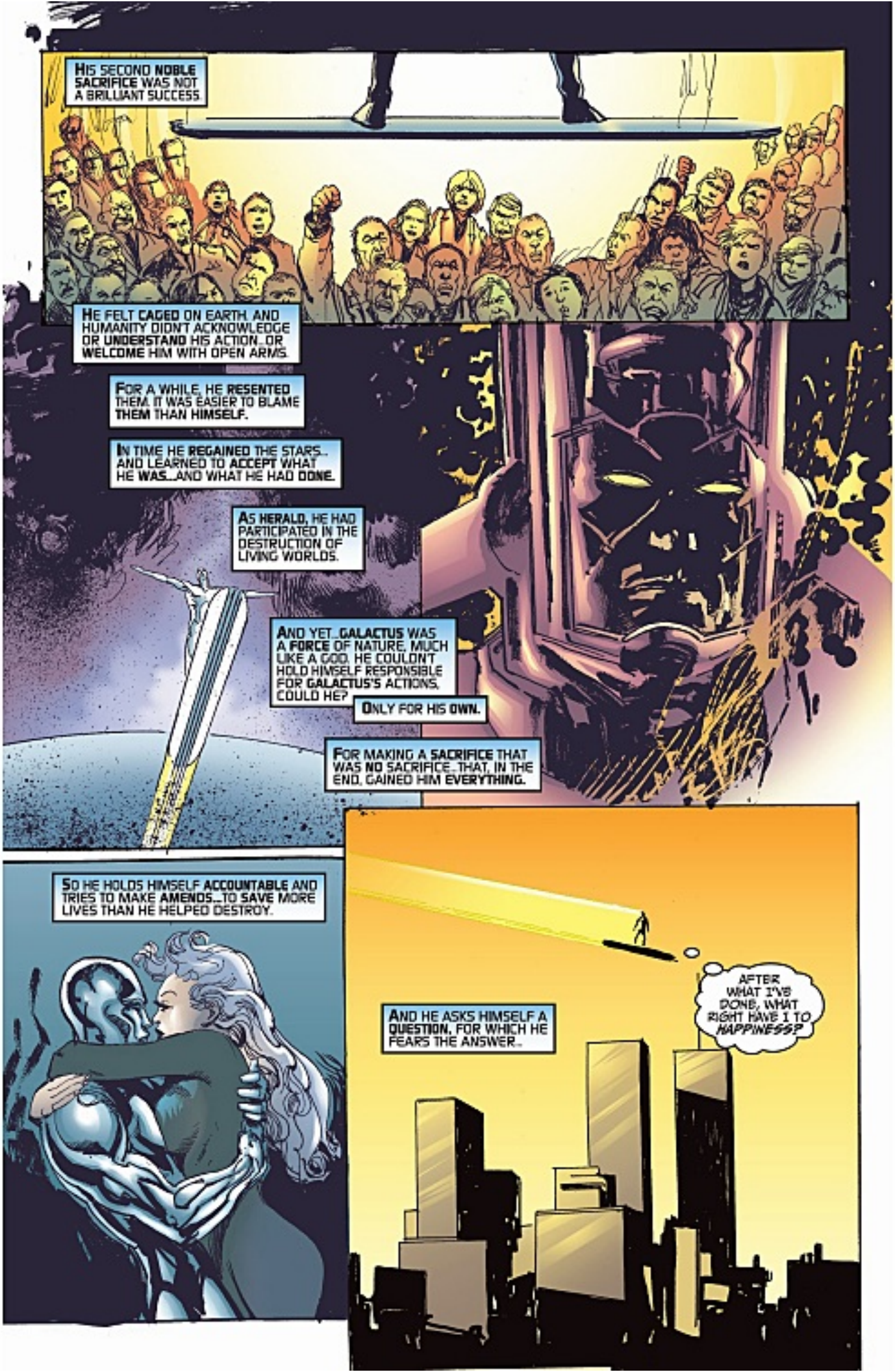

SPEAKING OF WHICH...THE MOVERS SAID BEN USED TO HELP YOU...?
SOMETIMES, WITH SHOVING STUFF AROUND.
YOU COULD HAVE ASKED ME.
YOU HAD THINGS TO DO! IMPORTANT THINGS! AND THERE ARE ORDINARY WAYS TO SOLVE THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM...MOST OF THE TIME.
THIS TIME... WITHOUT YOU, THOSE PEOPLE WOULD BE DEAD!


THANKS. I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU WERE HERE.
THEN I'M HAPPY TOO.
I-I REALLY AM HAPPY!
AND NOW YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE OTHER SHOE TO DROP, RIGHT?
SHOE...?
YOU KNOW... EVERYTHING'S SO PERFECT, YOU'RE WONDERING WHEN IT WILL END.
JUST... PUT THAT ASIDE FOR NOW, OKAY?
LET'S JUST BE GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME WE'VE GOT.

THE DAILY BUGLE.
THIS IS A HEROES FOR THE MILLENNIUM INVITE, RIGHT, RUTHIE M' LOVE?
AND IT'S FOR TWO —?
AND WHY SHOULD I WASTE A HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER INVITATION TO AN EXCLUSIVE CULTURAL EVENT ON YOU, MR. RANGERS FANATIC?
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE?
JUST WANNA RUB SHOULDERS WITH THE SUPER-HEROIC AND NEAR-HEROIC.
ALICIA MASTERS'S THE THING'S GIRL...?
AND THEY SAY YOUR FINGER'S ON THE PULSE OF THE CITY. THAT'S OLD NEWS, ALFIE.
WHO LISTENS TO GOSSIP...? HOW'S THE THING TAKING IT, ANYWAY?
SUPPOSEDLY, HE'S COOL. YOU KNOW IN A WAY, I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.
SORRY —?! WHY?
THE ONES WHO'RE OUT THERE... EXPOSED... LIKE THE FF... AND SURFER. EVEN ALICIA MASTERS.
EVERYBODY KNOWS WHO THEY ARE. EVERY TIME THEY HICCUP IT'S NEWS.
KEEPS US IN DONUTS.
I KEEP YOU IN DONUTS!
BESIDES...WHEN SOME FOLKS HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER...
...IT BEHOOVES THE REST OF US TO KEEP AN EYE ON WHAT THEY'RE DOING WITH IT!

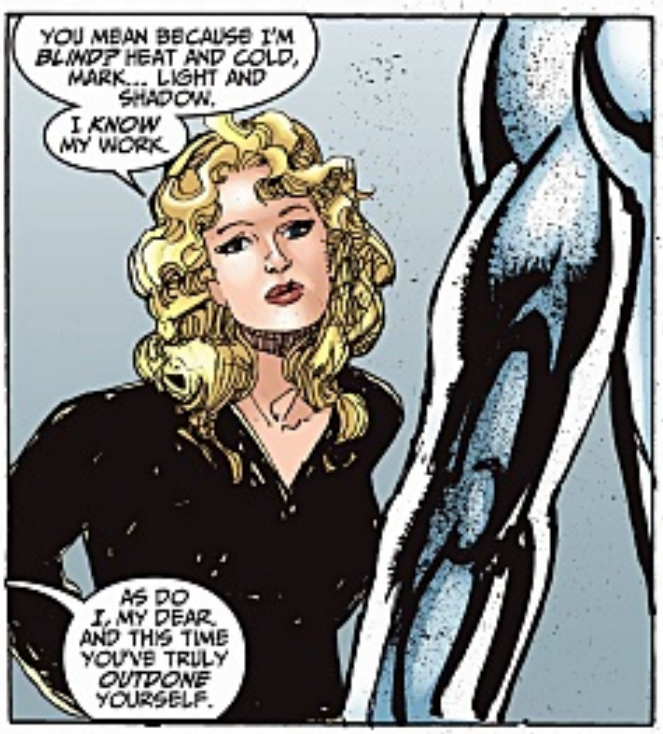

PIER FOUR IN LOWER MANHATTAN -- HEADQUARTERS OF THE TEAM OF SUPER HEROES KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
DON'T HURRY NONE ON MY ACCOUNT, STRETCH.
NOTHIN' I LIKE BETTER THAN BALANCIN' A TWO-TON HOVERCRAFT WHILE YOU SPEND HOURS FIDDLIN' WITH ITS FRAMISTAT.
I NEED A SPOT WELD, JOHNNY.
YOU GOT IT.
DON'T GET YOUR SHORTS IN A KNOT, BEN. WE'RE ALMOST DONE.
ONLY THING OF INTEREST IN THE MAIL IS AN INVITATION TO ALICIA MASTERS' OPENING.
THAT HEROES FOR THE MILLENNIUM THING? WE'RE NOT GOING --?!
O' COURSE WE'RE GOIN'!
JUST 'CAUSE ALICIA AN' ME BROKE UP, DON'T MEAN WE AIN'T STILL FRIENDS.
WHILE HIGH OVERHEAD...
HOW CAN I... HOW DARE I... BE HAPPY?
THE NOBLE AND LUGUBRIOUS NORRIN RADD WHOSE NOBLE SACRIFICE DOOMED DIVERSE WORLDS...
SO EASY TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, HE THINKS, WHEN YOU'RE RESTLESS AND DISSATISFIED...
...WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE...

THE APPEARANCE OF GALACTUS IN THE SKIES OVER ZENN-LA PRODUCED IN HIM, NOT TERROR, BUT A MIND-FOCUSING **RESOLVE** TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE.
IN A FIT OF UNBRIDLED HUBRIS, HE OFFERED HIMSELF TO GALACTUS AS **HERALD**, IF ONLY GALACTUS WOULD SPARE HIS WORLD.
TO HIS SURPRISE, GALACTUS ACCEPTED...**TRANSFORMED** HIM... AND GAVE HIM THE FREEDOM OF THE **STARS**.
AS THE SILVER SURFER, HE SCOURED THE UNIVERSE, SEARCHING OUT **UNINHABITED WORLDS** APPROPRIATE FOR GALACTUS'S CONSUMPTION. MOSTLY HE SUCCEEDED.
BUT OCCASIONALLY, HE WAS FORCED TO CHOOSE **OCCUPIED** WORLDS, AND THAT CUMULATIVE DEVASTATION NEARLY DESTROYED HIM.
FINALLY, IN AN ACT OF COMPASSION, GALACTUS ERASED HIS **MEMORY** OF HIS TIME AS NORRIN RADD.
AND SO IT WAS AS AN **EXPLORER**...PURE, FIERCE **CURIOSITY** PERSONIFIED... THAT HE ARRIVED ON **EARTH**.
THERE, **ALICIA MASTERS** OPENED HIS EYES TO WHAT HE HAD **BECOME**...MADE HIM **REALIZE** HOW MUCH HE HAD TO **ANSWER** FOR.
FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE... HER SAKE...THE SURFER **DEFIED** GALACTUS, AND GALACTUS WAS DRIVEN OFF.
IN PARTING, GALACTUS **RESTORED** THE SURFER'S MEMORIES AND **BOUND** HIM WITHIN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
...BARRING HIM FROM THE **STARS**.


HIS SECOND NOBLE SACRIFICE WAS NOT A BRILLIANT SUCCESS.
HE FELT CAGED ON EARTH. AND HUMANITY DIDN'T ACKNOWLEDGE OR UNDERSTAND HIS ACTION...OR WELCOME HIM WITH OPEN ARMS.
FOR A WHILE, HE RESENTED THEM. IT WAS EASIER TO BLAME THEM THAN HIMSELF.
IN TIME HE REGAINED THE STARS... AND LEARNED TO ACCEPT WHAT HE WAS...AND WHAT HE HAD DONE.
AS HERALD, HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF LIVING WORLDS.
AND YET...GALACTUS WAS A FORCE OF NATURE, MUCH LIKE A GOD. HE COULDN'T HOLD HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR GALACTUS'S ACTIONS, COULD HE?
ONLY FOR HIS OWN.
FOR MAKING A SACRIFICE THAT WAS NO SACRIFICE...THAT, IN THE END, GAINED HIM EVERYTHING.
SO HE HOLDS HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE AND TRIES TO MAKE AMENDS...TO SAVE MORE LIVES THAN HE HELPED DESTROY.
AND HE ASKS HIMSELF A QUESTION, FOR WHICH HE FEARS THE ANSWER...
AFTER WHAT I'VE DONE, WHAT RIGHT HAVE I TO HAPPINESS?

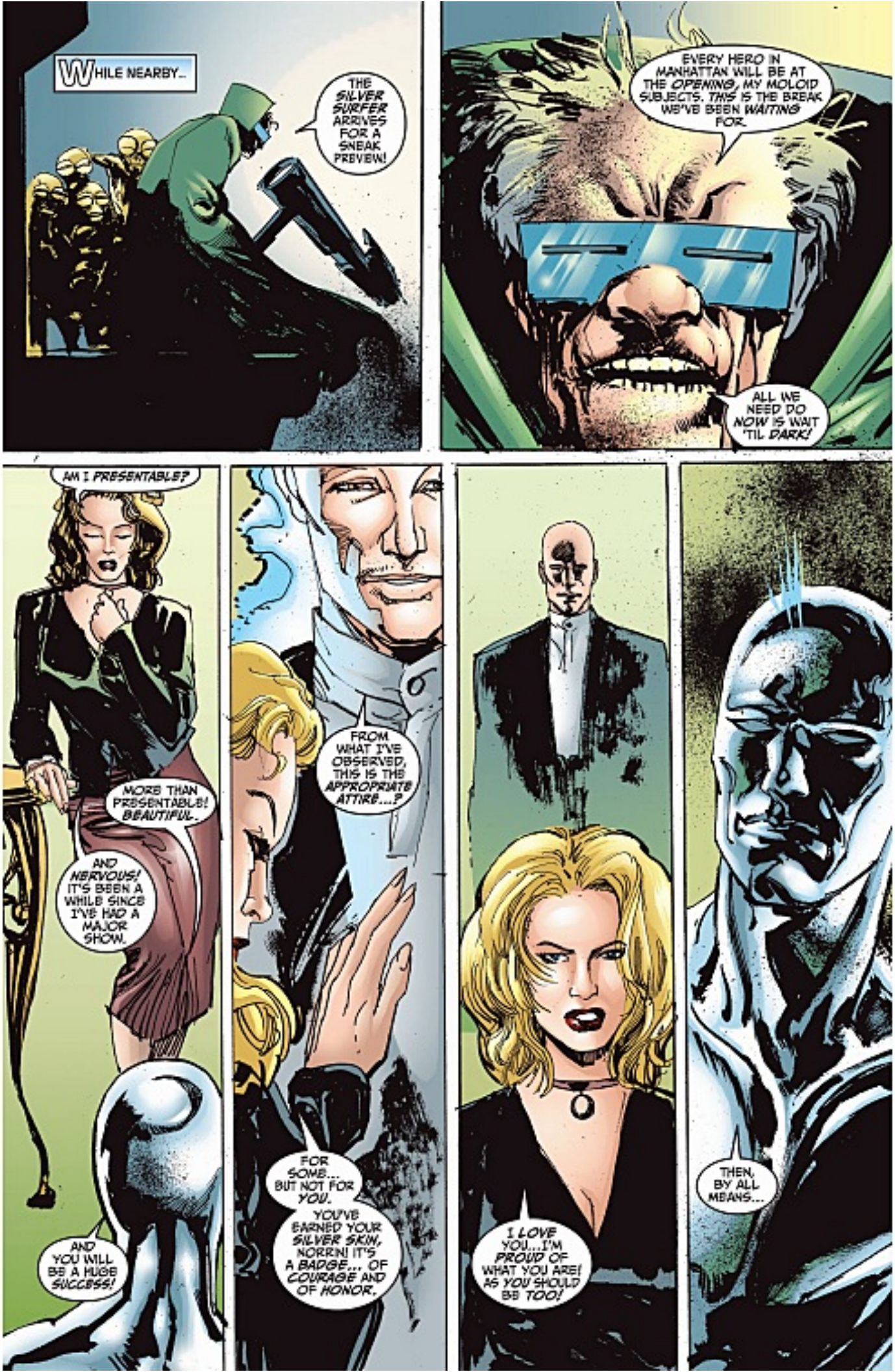
THE SEATON GALLERY IS A HIVE OF ACTIVITY AS STATUES ARE UNCRATED..
YOU GEOFF SEATON...? YER BROTHER SAID YOU'D TELL US WHERE TA SET THINGS UP!
AGAINST THE FAR WALL --
...AND THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE ART OPENING OF THE SEASON..

PERFECT, MY DEAR! HOW CAN YOU ALWAYS TELL?
MOVE THE SPOT A LITTLE TO THE LEFT.
THERE! GREAT!


YOU MEAN BECAUSE I'M BLIND? HEAT AND COLD, MARK... LIGHT AND SHADOW.
I KNOW MY WORK.
AS DO I, MY DEAR. AND THIS TIME YOU'VE TRULY OUTDONE YOURSELF.

THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU EVEN MORE APPRECIATED...AND BOTH OF US A GOOD DEAL RICHER.
EVERYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THIS CITY WILL ATTEND.
IF THINGS GO AS EXPECTED, WE SHOULD BE UP TO OUR EYEBROWS IN CELEBRITIES.

WHICH IS JUST THE WAY YOU AND GEOFF LIKE IT --!
NORRIN! COME SEE WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR!

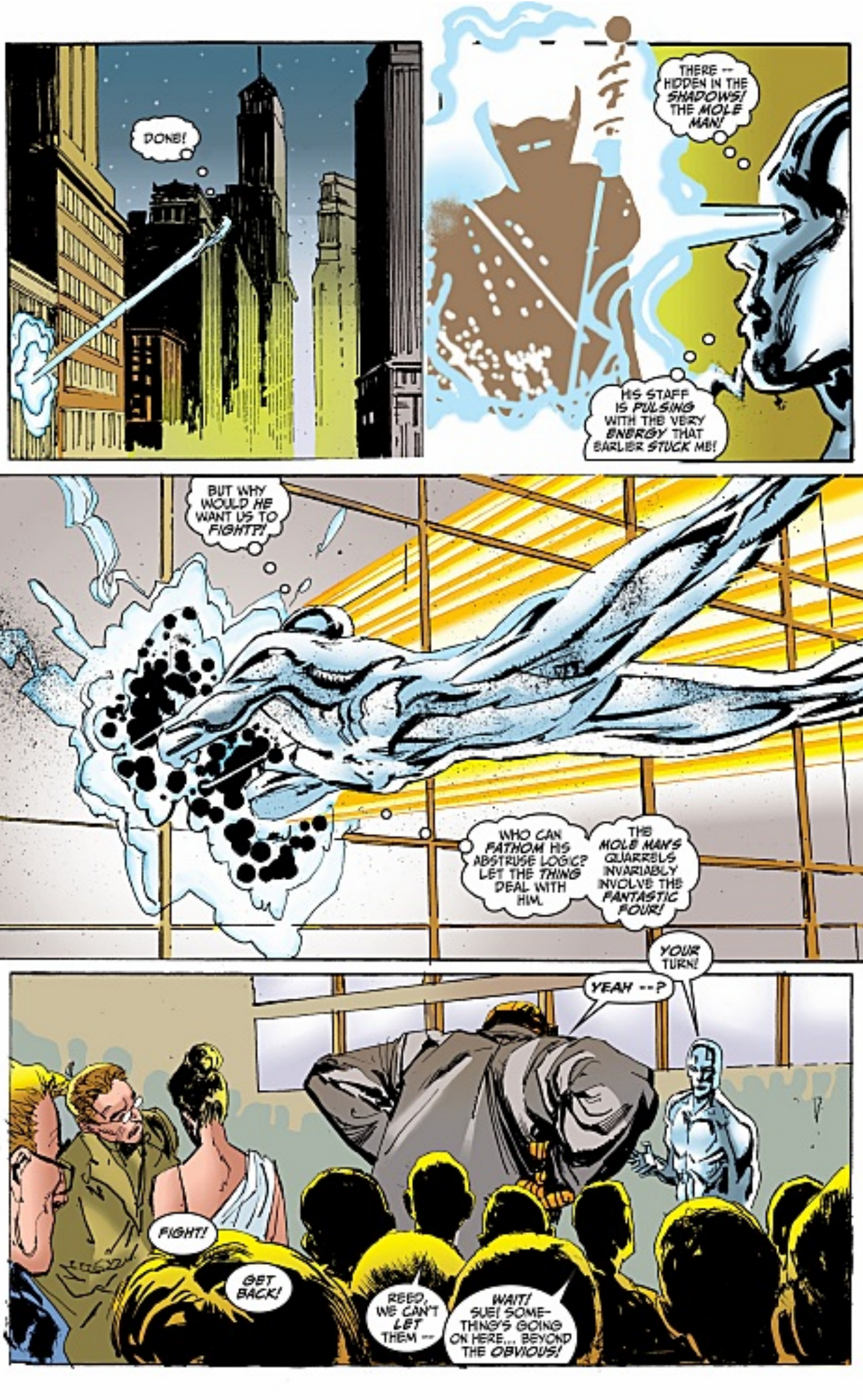

WHILE NEARBY...
THE SILVER SURFER ARRIVES FOR A SNEAK PREVIEW!
EVERY HERO IN MANHATTAN WILL BE AT THE OPENING, MY MOLOID SUBJECTS. THIS IS THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
ALL WE NEED DO NOW IS WAIT 'TIL DARK!
AM I PRESENTABLE?
MORE THAN PRESENTABLE! BEAUTIFUL.
AND NERVOUS! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD A MAJOR SHOW.
AND YOU WILL BE A HUGE SUCCESS!
FROM WHAT I'VE OBSERVED, THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE ATTIRE...?
FOR SOME... BUT NOT FOR YOU.
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR SILVER SKIN, NORRIN! IT'S A BADGE... OF COURAGE AND OF HONOR.
I LOVE YOU...I'M PROUD OF WHAT YOU ARE! AS YOU SHOULD BE TOO!
THEN, BY ALL MEANS...

"...LET US GO IN STYLE!"
WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?
A MILLING CROWD... CRANING THEIR NECKS AND MURMURING AT EACH NEW ARRIVAL... PHOTOGRAPHERS SNAPPING PICTURES...
SOUNDS LIKE A MOVIE OPENING. MARK WILL BE PLEASED.
STUFF'S NOT HALF BAD.
THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT, ALF. IT'S RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY!
MARK, THE CAPTAIN AMERICA PIECE SOLD!
WITH PLEASURE, MR. STARK.
THE FANTASTIC FOUR JUST WALKED IN THE DOOR.
LOOK AT THE BABE ON THE THING'S ARM! TALK ABOUT FANTASTIC!
NAME'S ALYSSA SOMETHING.
SO THE THING-MASTERS-SURFER TRIANGLE HAS BECOME A QUADRANGLE...?
I HEARD THOSE TWO ARE JUST GOOD FRIENDS.
FROM WHAT THEY SAY, THEY'RE ALL GOOD FRIENDS. I DO WONDER, THOUGH...

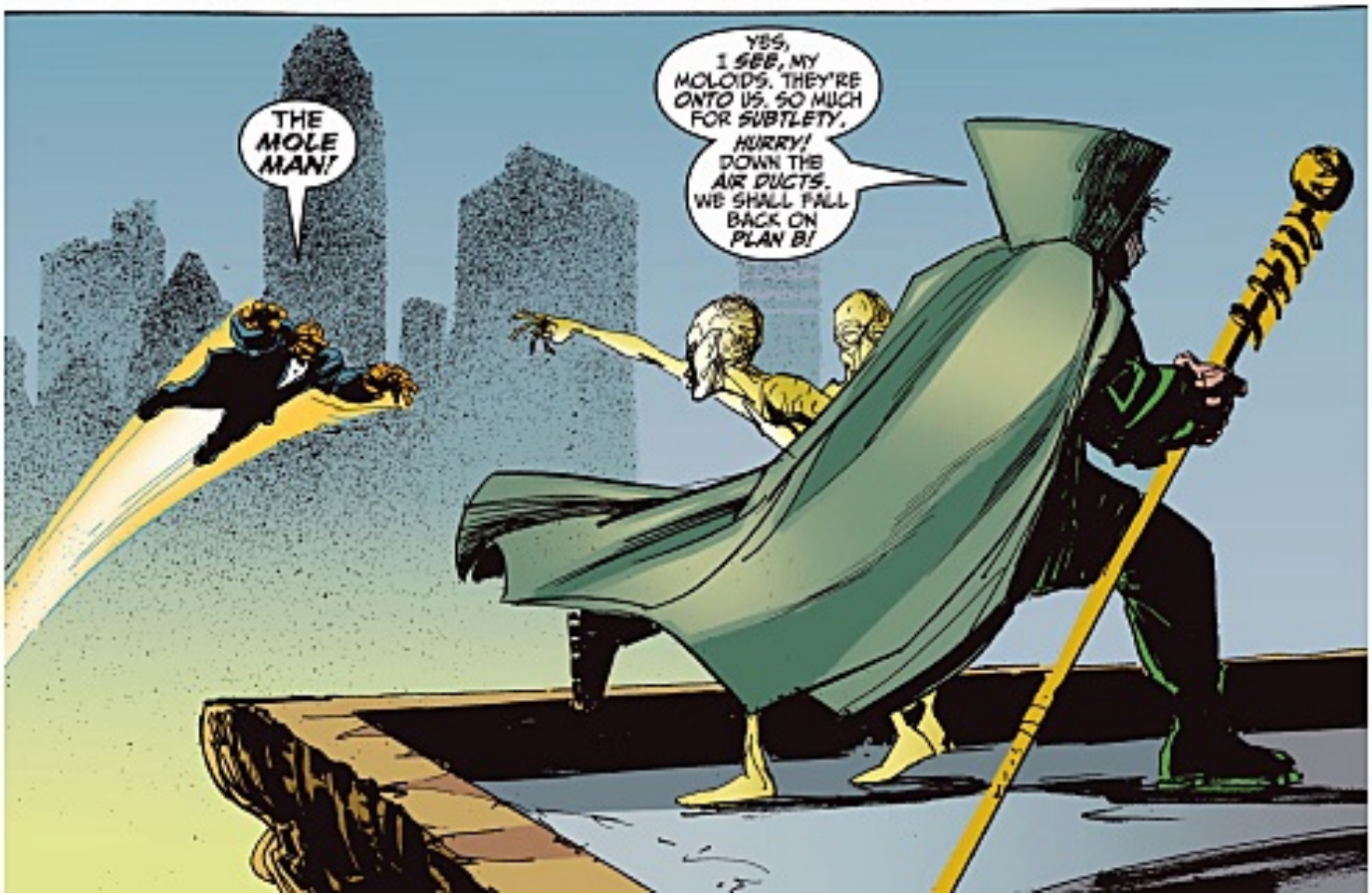
...NOT AS LIFELIKE AS SOME OF MASTERS' OTHER STUDIES. HERB ON THE SURFER PIECE SHE'S MISSED THE JAWLINE COMPLETELY...
I'LL BE SURE TO INFORM HER OF HER ERROR.
EEP!
YOU SAW THAT, REED...?
APPARENTLY HE'S DEVELOPING A SENSE OF HUMOR.
HAPPINESS WILL SOMETIMES DO THAT. I FEEL SAD FOR BEN, THOUGH.
SO... HOW COME SHE DIDN'T MAKE YOU WEAR A MONKEY SUIT?
BECAUSE I'M NOT A MONKEY...?
EXCELLENT! MY SONIC TRANSMUTER LETS ME HEAR EVERY WORD THEY SAY... AND CONFIRMS MY SUSPICION.
BENEATH THEIR CIVILIZED VENEER, THERE IS A RIVALRY BETWEEN SURFER AND THE THING WHICH I CAN EXPLOIT.

I HAVE BUT TO STRIKE THEM WITH A WAVE OF SOLID SOUND...
...AND THE RESULTING MELEE SHOULD KEEP THESE GOOD PEOPLE TOO OCCUPIED HERE TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS!
WHAP
HEY! QUIT SHOVIN'!
YOU SHOVED ME!
NO WAY, PAL O' MINE! IF I SHOVED YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BE STANDIN'!
DEBATABLE! STILL... IF IT WASN'T EITHER ONE OF US...
THEN SOMEBODY OUT THERE WANTS US PUNCHIN' OUT EACH OTHER'S LIGHTS AND SPOILIN' THE SHOW!
BUT WHO --?

MAYBE IF WE GIVE 'IM WHAT HE WANTS, WE CAN FIND OUT.
SO HOWSE ABOUT YOU TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AN' SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT ANY-ONE!
BEN! NORRIN! WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
DON'T WORRY, BABY. THIS AIN'T WHAT IT SEEMS!
POW
NOW USE YER PHASIN' POWER! DON'T WANT YA GETTIN' ALICIA MAD AT US FER BREAKIN' NUTHIN'!

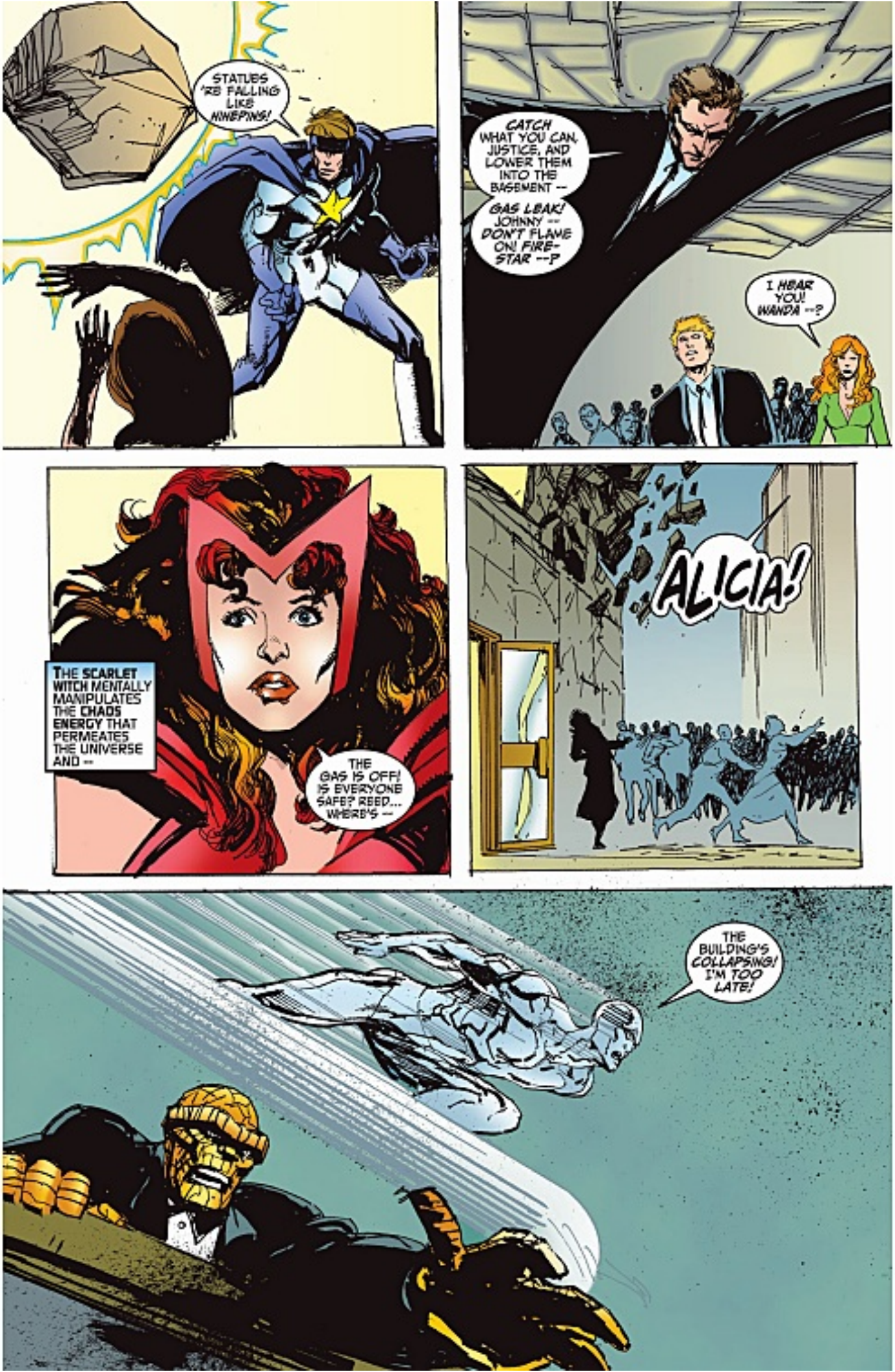

DONE!
THERE -- HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS! THE MOLE MAN!
HIS STAFF IS PULSING WITH THE VERY ENERGY THAT EARLIER STUCK ME!
BUT WHY WOULD HE WANT US TO FIGHT?!
WHO CAN FATHOM HIS ABSTRUSE LOGIC? LET THE THING DEAL WITH HIM.
THE MOLE MAN'S QUARRELS INVARIABLY INVOLVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
YOUR TURN!
YEAH --?
FIGHT!
GET BACK!
REED, WE CAN'T LET THEM --
WAIT! SUE! SOMETHING'S GOING ON HERE... BEYOND THE OBVIOUS!

OLD FRIEND OF YOURS, ON THE ROOF --
CRASH
-- OVER THERE!


THE MOLE MAN!
YES, I SEE, MY MOLOIDS. THEY'RE ONTO US. SO MUCH FOR SUBTLETY. HURRY! DOWN THE AIR DUCTS. WE SHALL FALL BACK ON PLAN B!

CREEP DUCKED INTO THE VENTILATION SYSTEM!
YOU COULDA GRABBED 'IM WHILE YOU WERE OUT HERE... 'STEAD A' SLAMMIN' ME THROUGH THE WINDOW,
'LICIA'S GONNA BE SORE ABOUT YOU BREAKIN' THAT!
I HAD HOPED TO MAKE OUR BATTLE LOOK AUTHENTIC...
...TO LULL THE MOLE MAN INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY AND ALLOW YOU TIME TO CAPTURE HIM!
SURE YA DID!
STILL... PERHAPS I SHOULD RESTORE THE WINDOW BEFORE WE RETURN,
AGILE LITTLE WEASEL!
AW, NUTS! THIS IS A LOSIN' BATTLE!
WONDER WHAT HE WAS UP TO...?
RMMMM
YOU HEAR SOMETHIN'--?
POLICE SIRENS... HEADING NORTH.
NO... MORE LIKE A CRUMBLIN' NOISE. SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMIN' FROM --
-- THE GALLERY!
WHOOP WHOOP

CRAKK
BEN! NORRIN! WHAT —?
GAWKERS STUMBLE BACK, PANICKING AS THE GALLERY'S VERY FOUNDATION STARTS TO CRUMBLE.
CRACKS APPEAR IN THE FACADE. PLATE GLASS WINDOWS SHATTER AS THE BUILDING SHIFTS VIOLENTLY.
CRASH
RUN!
IT'S COMING DOWN!
IN AN INSTANT, PORTIONS OF THE FLOOR DISAPPEAR, GIANT STATUES TEETER AND FALL, AND CHUNKS OF GLASS RAIN DOWN FROM THE CEILING.
REACTING INSTANTLY, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN CREATES A FORCE FIELD, CATCHING AND SHIELDING THE CROWD, WHILE OTHER SUPER-POWERED GUESTS LEAP TO ACTION...
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT PANELS A CEILING WITH SMOKED GLASS?
RATHER ASK WHAT CAUSES THIS BUILDING TO CRUMBLE INTO DUST!
DECIDED NOT TO WEAR MY ARMOR, SINCE I WANTED THE CAP PIECE FOR MY PRIVATE COLLECTION.
I ACTUALLY ASKED MYSELF... WHAT COULD HAPPEN AT AN OPENING...?
EVERYONE REMAIN CALM! PANIC WILL FURTHER ENDANGER YOU!

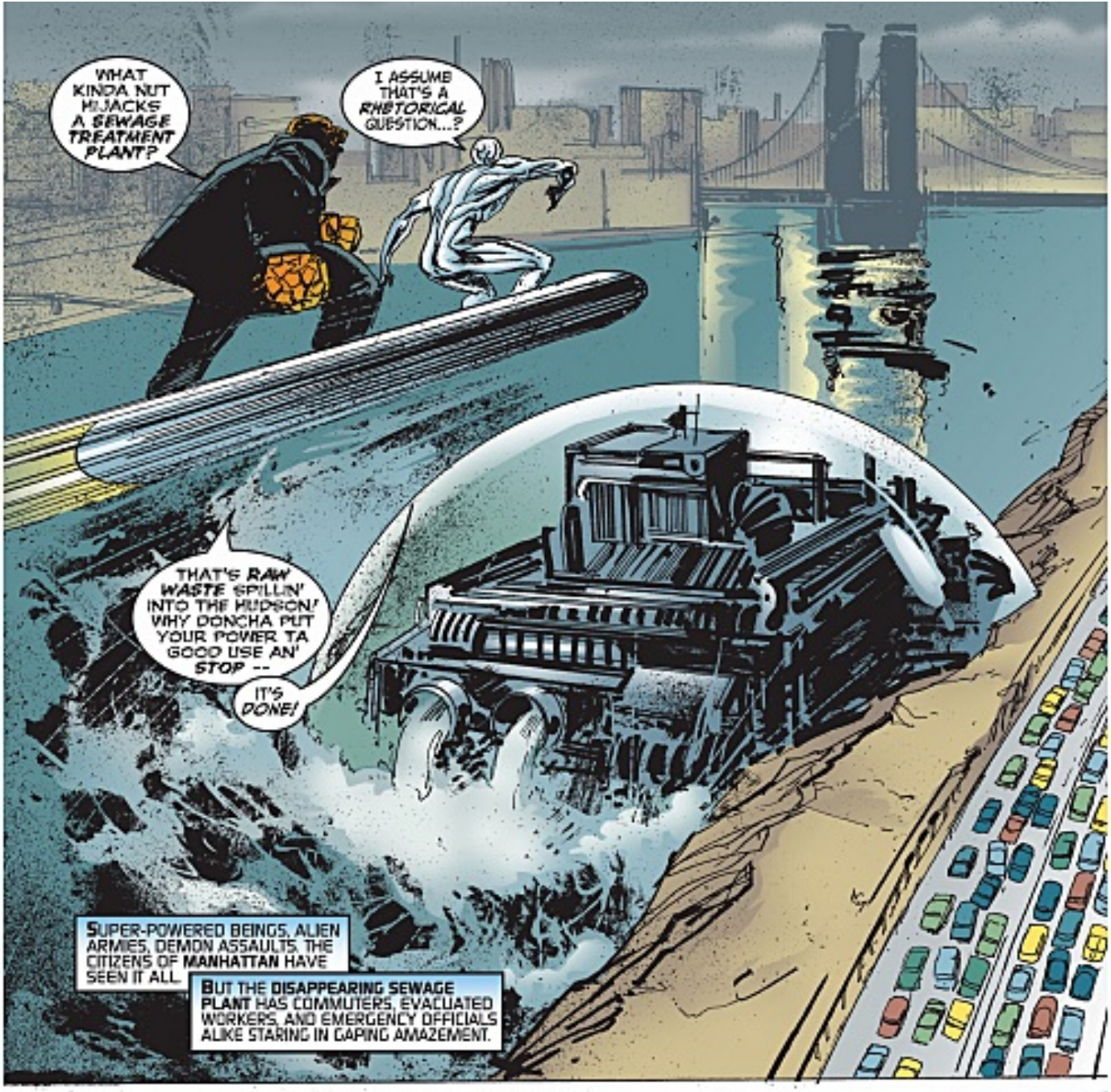

STATUES 'RE FALLING LIKE NINEPINS!
CATCH WHAT YOU CAN, JUSTICE, AND LOWER THEM INTO THE BASEMENT --
GAS LEAK! JOHNNY -- DON'T FLAME ON! FIRE-STAR --P
I HEAR YOU! WANDA --?
THE SCARLET WITCH MENTALLY MANIPULATES THE CHAOS ENERGY THAT PERMEATES THE UNIVERSE AND --
THE GAS IS OFF! IS EVERYONE SAFE? REED... WHERE'S --
ALICIA!
THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSING! I'M TOO LATE!

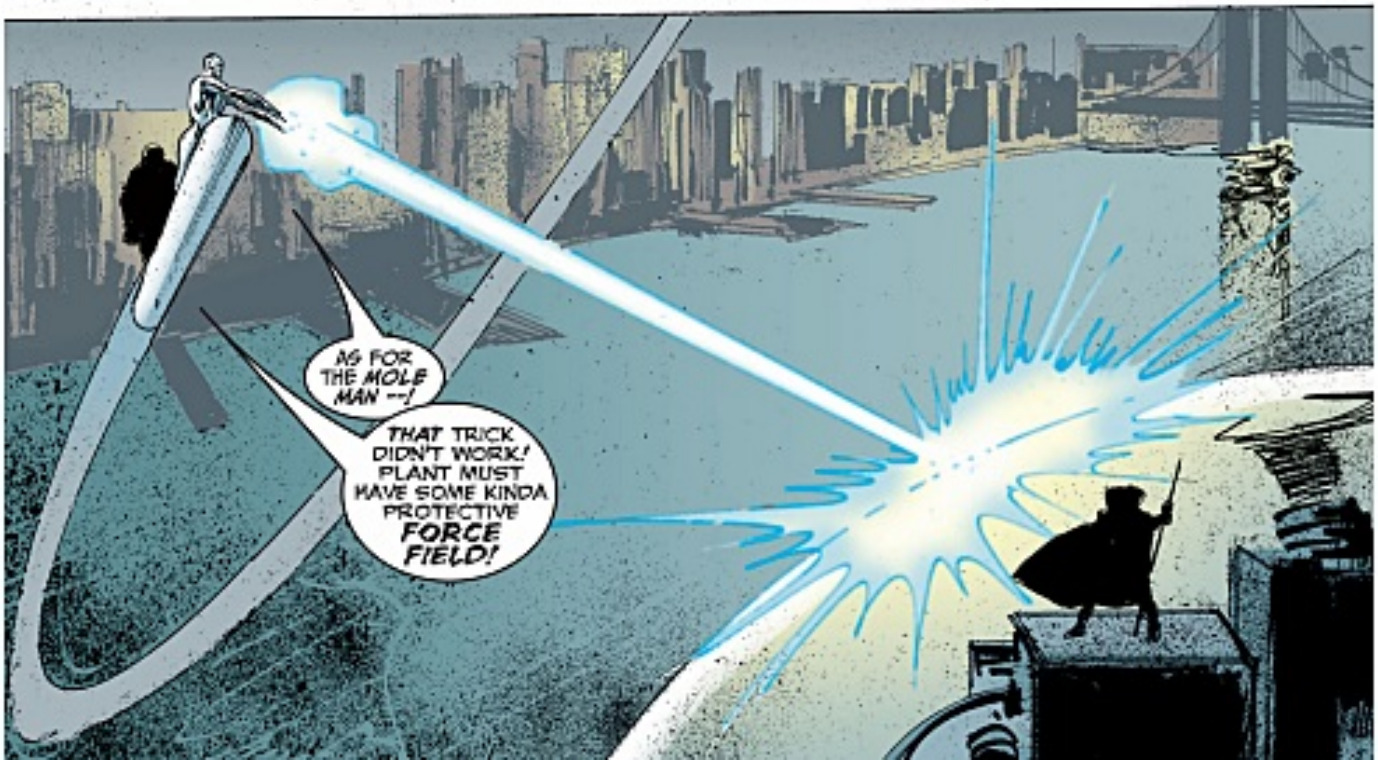
WHAT --?
WHAT'S...
...HAPPENING...?
ALICIA --! YOU'RE --

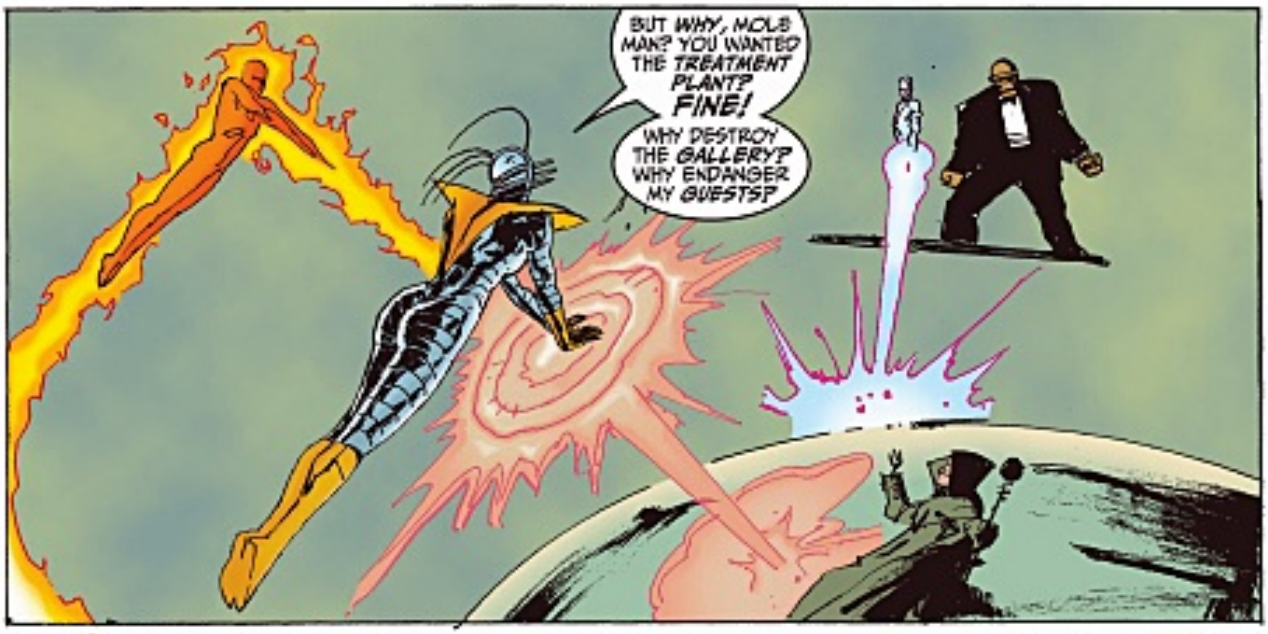
YEAH. WOW!
MY ARMOR'S BACK. JUST LIKE THAT.
JUST AS WELL, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES... BUT HOW...? WHAT HAPPENED?
I... DON'T KNOW EXACTLY. BUT I... FEAR I MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED IT?
I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THE MOLE MAN WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.
BUT I WANTED TO PROLONG THE FIGHT... TO SMASH BEN'S FACE... AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO SMASH MINE.
IT SEEMS MY RENEWED ABILITY TO FEEL IS MORE CURSE THAN BLESSING.
ALICIA! THERE YOU ARE! REED AND SUE WERE WORRIED BUT I TOLD THEM --
UH... IT IS YOU IN THERE?
THIS WAY OUT! KEEP MOVING, FOLKS!
OF COURSE IT'S ME! A ROBOT... CYPHYRR... GAVE ME THIS PROTECTIVE ARMOR WHEN THE SURFER AND I WERE IN THE MACROVERSE.
I THOUGHT IT WAS GONE FOR GOOD, BUT... GUESS NOT.*
JOHNNY -- IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?
*...IN SILVER SURFER #146 -- BOBBIE.

EVERYBODY'S FINE. SUE AND THE OTHERS ARE JURY-RIGGING BRACES FOR THE BUILDING NOW. REED AND STARK ARE DIRECTING.
CAP'S EVACUATING FOLKS... AND YEAH, YOUR STATUS ARE MOSTLY OKAY, TOO.
SUE FREAKED WHEN SHE REALIZED YOU WEREN'T INSIDE, AND SENT ME OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU.
BUT... WHO'D WANT TO DAMAGE AN ART GALLERY?
OLE KING MOLE MAN AND HIS MERRY MOLOID LEGIONS! THAT'S WHO! WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS WHY?!
ONE POSSIBILITY...! THE OFFICE TELLS ME WHILE YOU HEROES FLOAT AROUND OUT HERE...
...THE UPTOWN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS DISAPPEARING INTO THE HUDSON RIVER!
WANNA GUESS WHO'S RESPONSIBLE...?
THAT IS BIZARRE BEHAVIOR... EVEN FOR THE MOLE MAN.
THIS WHOLE THING'S BIZARRE!
WAIT UP, PAL! THIS TIME, I'M COMIN' WITH YA!

SO THE MOLE MAN COLLAPSED MARK'S GALLERY --?! THAT LITTLE CREEP --!
AFTER WE HELPED HIM AGAINST TERMINUS, TOO!
*IN FF #4 -- Bobbie.
JOHNNY, I'M GOING AFTER THEM!
BUT HOW --?!
LIKE, D'UH! THE ARMOR LETS HER FLY AS WELL AS SEE!
ALICIA, WAIT A SEC!
HEY, O'MALLY! BEFORE YOU RUSH OFF TO GET THIS IN THE BULLDOG EDITION...
...DO WHAT YOU DO BEST AND TELL THE FOLKS INSIDE WHAT'S UP!


WHAT KINDA NUT HIJACKS A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT?
I ASSUME THAT'S A RHETORICAL QUESTION...?
THAT'S RAW WASTE SPILLIN' INTO THE HUDSON! WHY DONCHA PUT YOUR POWER TA GOOD USE AN' STOP --
IT'S DONE!
SUPER-POWERED BEINGS, ALIEN ARMIES, DEMON ASSAULTS, THE CITIZENS OF MANHATTAN HAVE SEEN IT ALL.
BUT THE DISAPPEARING SEWAGE PLANT HAS COMMUTERS, EVACUATED WORKERS, AND EMERGENCY OFFICIALS ALIKE STARING IN GAPING AMAZEMENT.


AS FOR THE MOLE MAN --!
THAT TRICK DIDN'T WORK! PLANT MUST HAVE SOME KINDA PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD!


BUT WHY, MOLE MAN? YOU WANTED THE TREATMENT PLANT? FINE!
WHY DESTROY THE GALLERY? WHY ENDANGER MY GUESTS?

I SEE THAT THE CAVALRY HAS BEGUN TO ARRIVE!
AND THAT'S MISS MASTERS' VOICE, I BELIEVE! A RIVETING TRANSFORMATION, IF YOU ALLOW ME TO SAY SO!
I TARGETED THE GALLERY, MY DEAR, BECAUSE I WANTED ALL OF YOU TO REMAIN THERE, IN SOHO!
I WAS TRYING TO AVOID JUST THIS KIND OF POINTLESS IMBROGLIO!

I COULD PROBABLY DISRUPT THE FORCE FIELD, REED, BUT THE BACKWASH MIGHT KILL HIM!
OR WORSE!
THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHAT YOU WANT WITH THIS PLANT!

WAIT! ALL OF YOU CEASE YOUR ATTACKS -- IMMEDIATELY!
CEASE --?! REED... WHY?
FINALLY... A RATIONAL MOVE BY A RATIONAL MAN WITH A GRASP OF THE OBVIOUS!
TO ANSWER YOUR EARLIER QUESTION, ALICIA... MY MOLOIDS' NEED FOR THIS PLANT IS IMMEDIATE AND DESPERATE.
THEIR RECENT EXPOSURE TO THE SURFACE WORLD HAS LEFT THEM SENSITIVE TO POLLUTION IN THE AQUIFERS AROUND WHICH WE DWELL.
WITHOUT THIS PLANT TO PURIFY THOSE WATERS, THEY WILL DIE.
THERE'S THE VARLET, IRON MAN! LET THE POWER OF MIGHTY MJOLNIR BLAST ASUNDER --
THOR, WAIT! REED'S RIGHT!
DISRUPT THAT FORCE FIELD, AND WE SEND THAT PLANT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HUDSON, WHERE IT WON'T HELP ANYBODY.
AND I USED TO THINK THE MOLE MAN'S SUDDEN CONCERN FOR HIS SUBJECTS WAS A GOOD THING.
YOU COULD HAVE ASKED FOR OUR HELP!
NOT EVEN YOU, REED RICHARDS, COULD HAVE MOVED QUICKLY ENOUGH TO SAVE MY PEOPLE. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!
YOU SURFACE DWELLERS POLLUTED OUR AQUIFERS... NOW YOUR TREATMENT PLANT WILL CLEAR THEM.

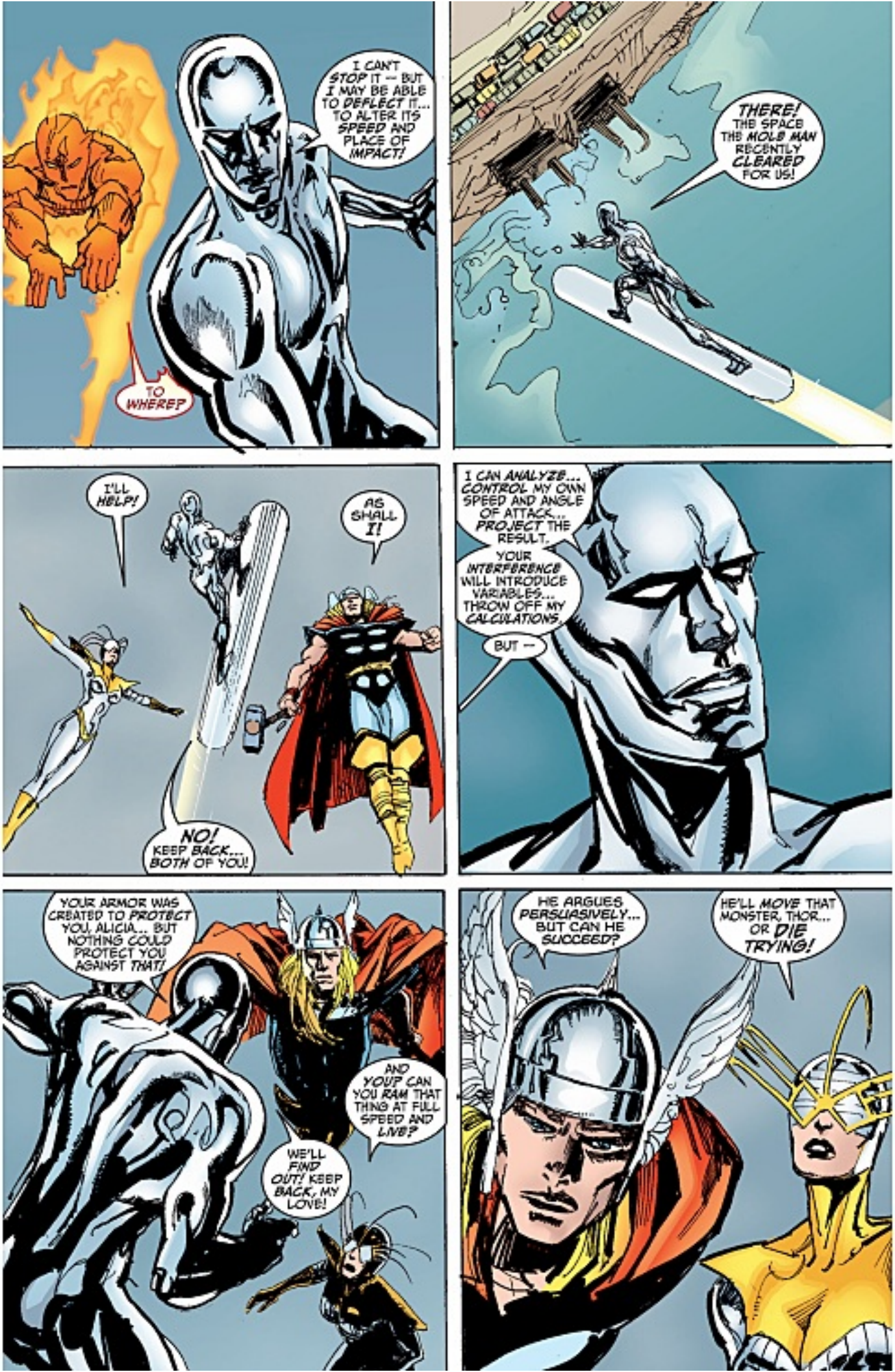
LIFE ISN'T FAIR, MY FRIENDS... BUT OCCASIONALLY IT IS JUST!
WE'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM!
I KNOW. BUT I'M NOT EXACTLY DRESSED FOR —

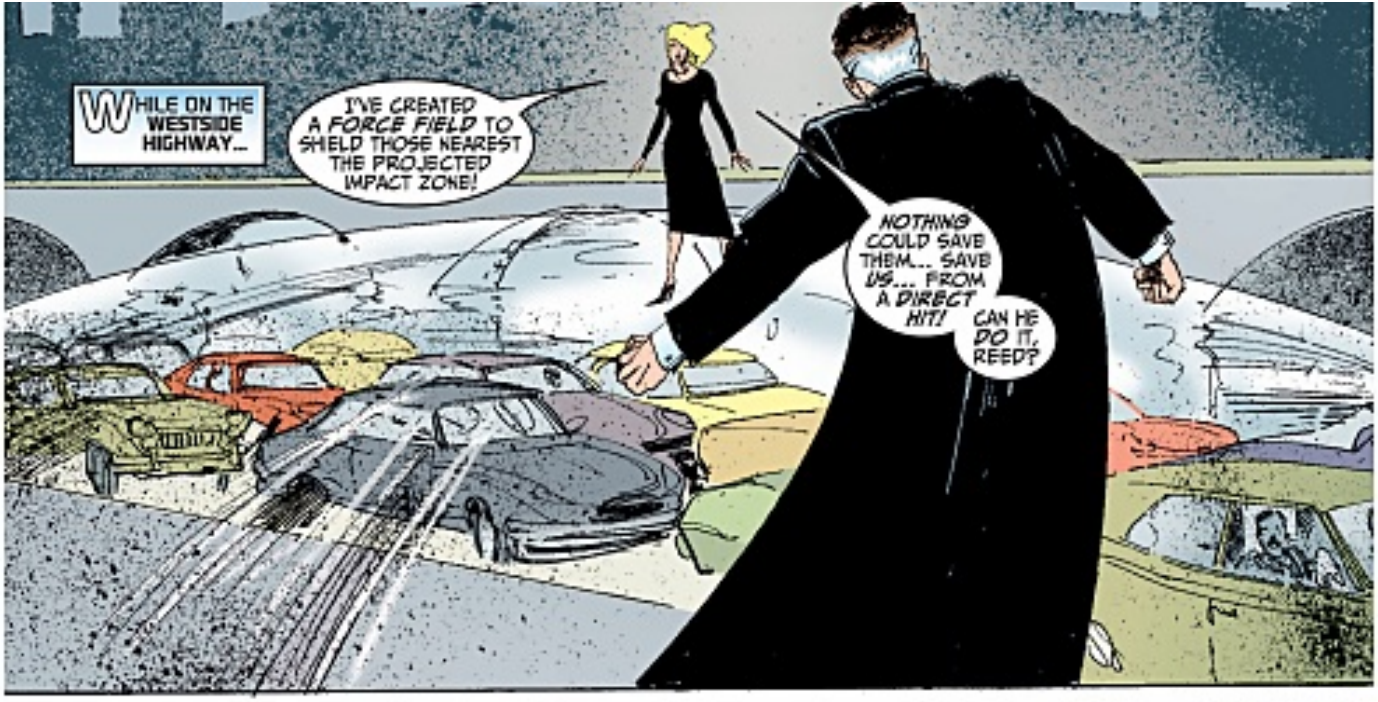
LET HIM GO —!
YER KIDDIN'! WHY?

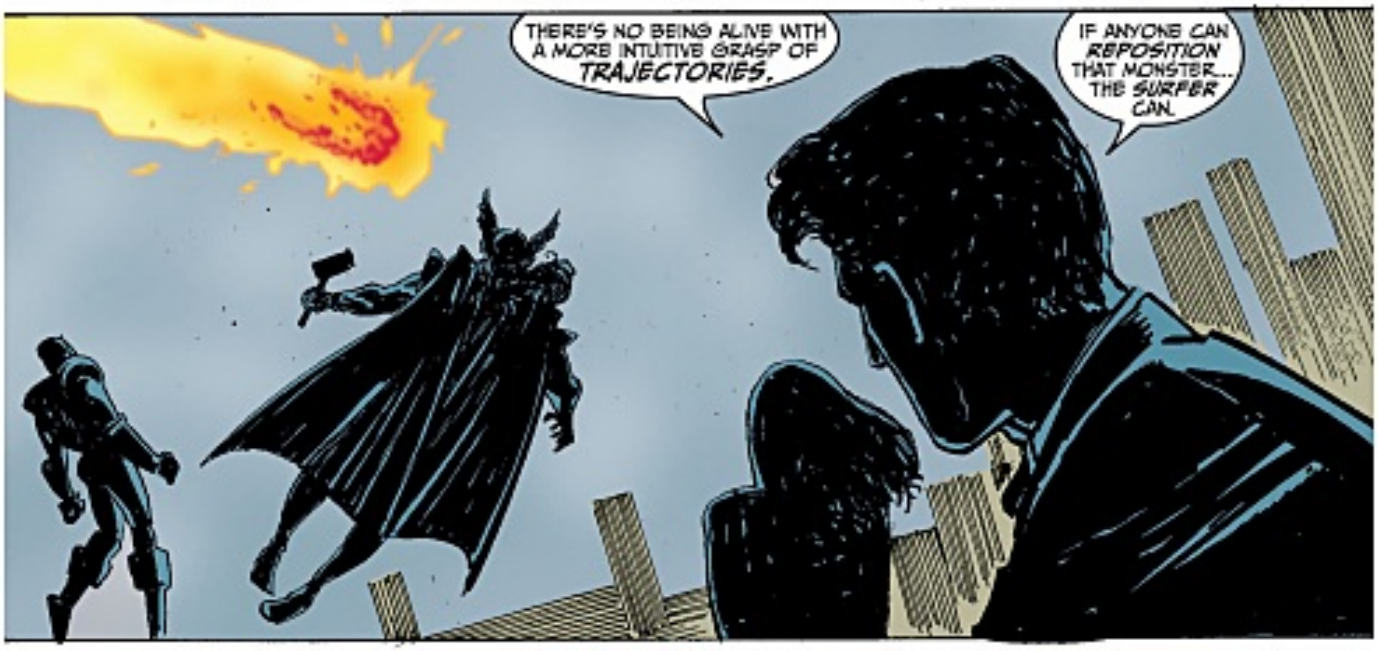
UP THERE!
METEOR?
UNKNOWN. WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S COMING FAST!
WHERE'S IT HEADED?

TOWARD MIDTOWN...!

CAN WE STOP IT?
AT THAT RATE OF APPROACH... NOT A CHANCE!
4
WE'LL HAVE TO CLEAR THE AREA...!
ALL O' MIDTOWN?! SUSIE, THERE'S NO TIME.


I CAN'T STOP IT — BUT I MAY BE ABLE TO DEFLECT IT... TO ALTER ITS SPEED AND PLACE OF IMPACT!
TO WHERE?
THERE! THE SPACE THE MOLE MAN RECENTLY CLEARED FOR US!
I'LL HELP!
AS SHALL I!
NO! KEEP BACK... BOTH OF YOU!
I CAN ANALYZE... CONTROL MY OWN SPEED AND ANGLE OF ATTACK... PROJECT THE RESULT.
YOUR INTERFERENCE WILL INTRODUCE VARIABLES... THROW OFF MY CALCULATIONS.
BUT —
YOUR ARMOR WAS CREATED TO PROTECT YOU, ALICIA... BUT NOTHING COULD PROTECT YOU AGAINST THAT!
AND YOU? CAN YOU RAM THAT THING AT FULL SPEED AND LIVE?
WE'LL FIND OUT! KEEP BACK, MY LOVE!
HE ARGUES PERSUASIVELY... BUT CAN HE SUCCEED?
HE'LL MOVE THAT MONSTER, THOR... OR DIE TRYING!


WHILE ON THE WESTSIDE HIGHWAY...
I'VE CREATED A FORCE FIELD TO SHIELD THOSE NEAREST THE PROJECTED IMPACT ZONE!
NOTHING COULD SAVE THEM... SAVE US... FROM A DIRECT HIT!
CAN HE DO IT, REED?


THERE'S NO BEING ALIVE WITH A MORE INTUITIVE GRASP OF TRAJECTORIES.
IF ANYONE CAN REPOSITION THAT MONSTER... THE SURFER CAN.

MY INITIAL OFFER TO GALACTUS WAS MADE IN PRIDE... I REBELLED IN NAIVETE.
NOW, IF I DIE, I DIE IN GRATITUDE FOR LOVE REGAINED... FOR LIVES SUSTAINED... FOR UNIVERSES SAVORED...!

AND, MOST OF ALL — FOR *POWER* TO *PRESERVE!*
WHRAM

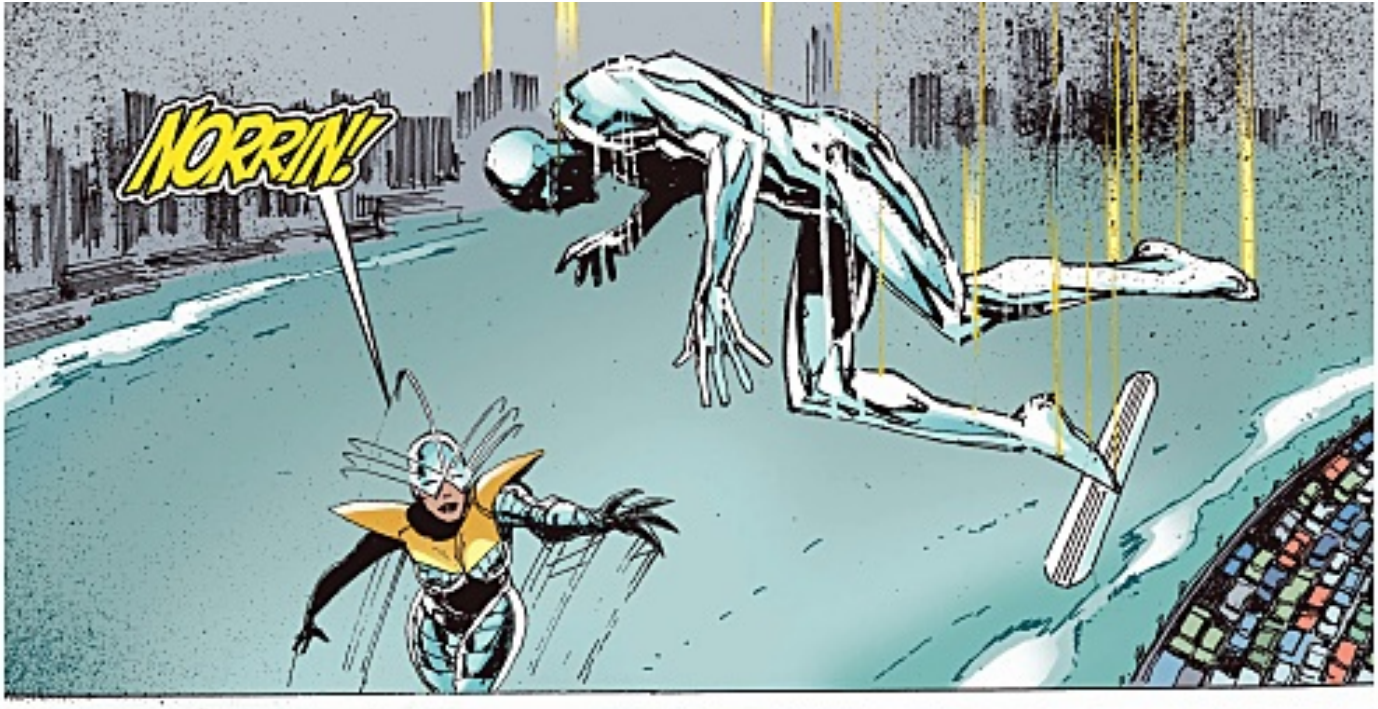
KWRAAASH

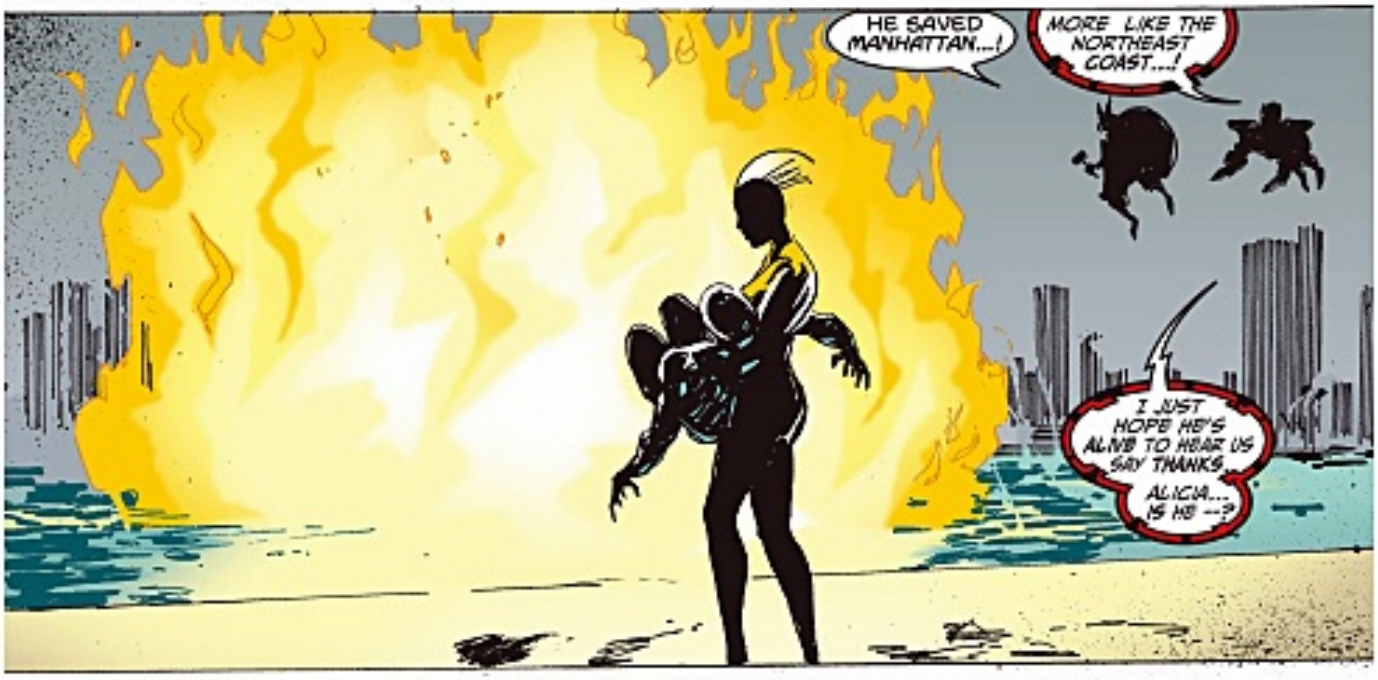
HE DID IT!
BUT WAS IT ENOUGH? BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE SHOCK WAVE!

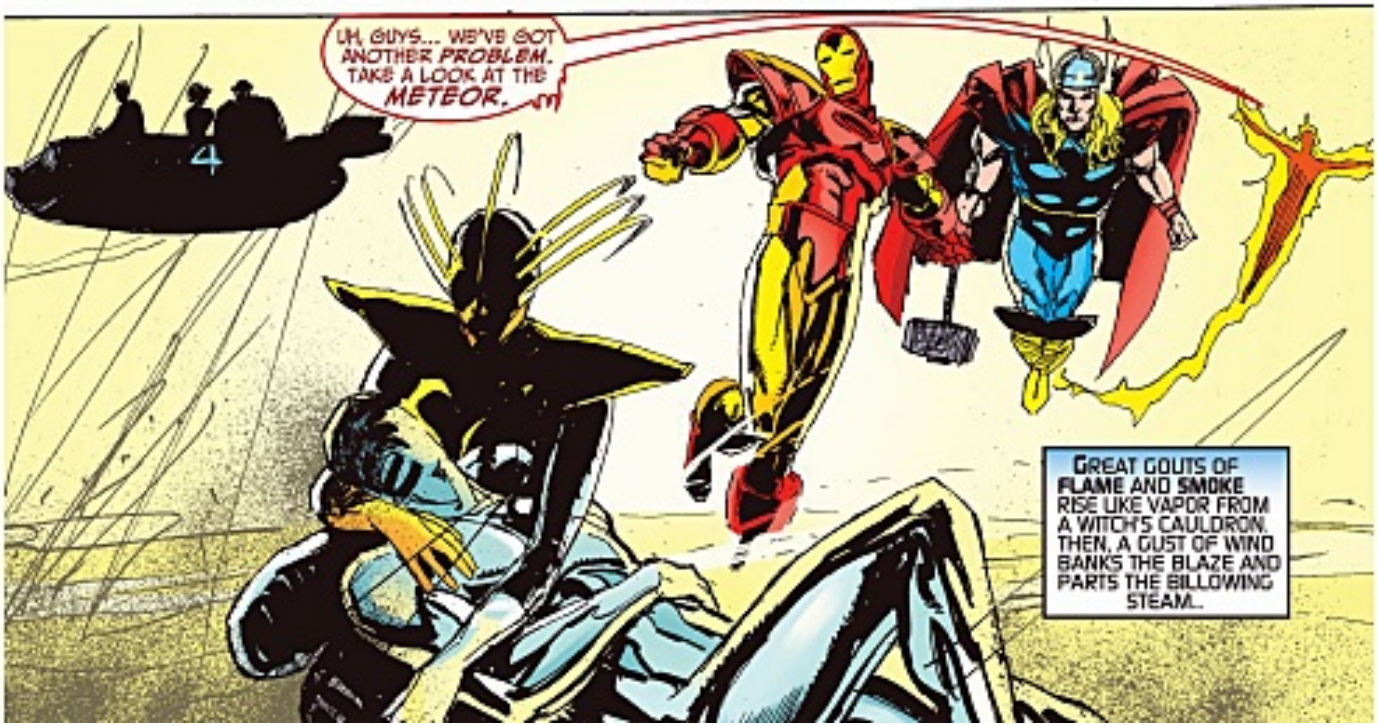
SUE'S FORCE FIELD EXPANDS TO ENVELOP AND PROTECT THE HEROES.
STILL, THEY FEEL A JOLT AS THE GROUND BENEATH THE IMPACT ZONE COMPRESSES VIOLENTLY.

THE SHOCK WAVE SPREADS LIKE RIPPLES FROM THE EPICENTER, PAST THE SHORES OF THE GREAT RIVER... THROUGH DENSELY POPULATED CITIES... SUBURBS... AND BEYOND.

THE BEDROCK FROM WHICH MANHATTAN RISES SHUDDERS FIERCELY. THE GREAT CITY'S GLEAMING TOWERS TREMBLE... BUT THEY HOLD.
THANK THE GODS!

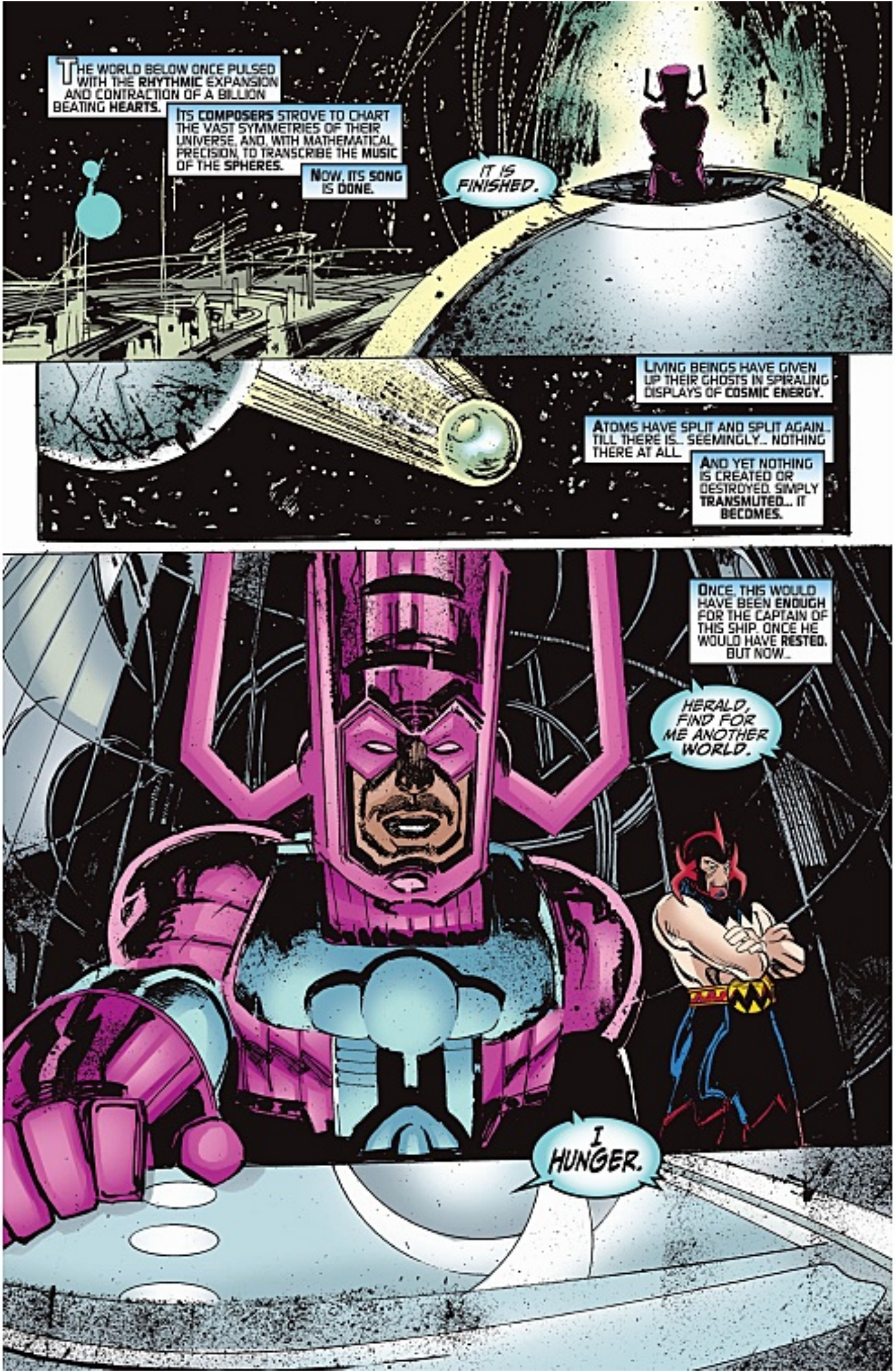

NORRIN!


HE SAVED MANHATTAN...!
MORE LIKE THE NORTHEAST COAST...!
I JUST HOPE HE'S ALIVE TO HEAR US SAY THANKS
ALICIA... IS HE --?


UH, GUYS... WE'VE GOT ANOTHER PROBLEM. TAKE A LOOK AT THE METEOR.
GREAT GOUTS OF FLAME AND SMOKE RISE LIKE VAPOR FROM A WITCH'S CAULDRON. THEN, A GUST OF WIND BANKS THE BLAZE AND PARTS THE BILLOWING STEAM..

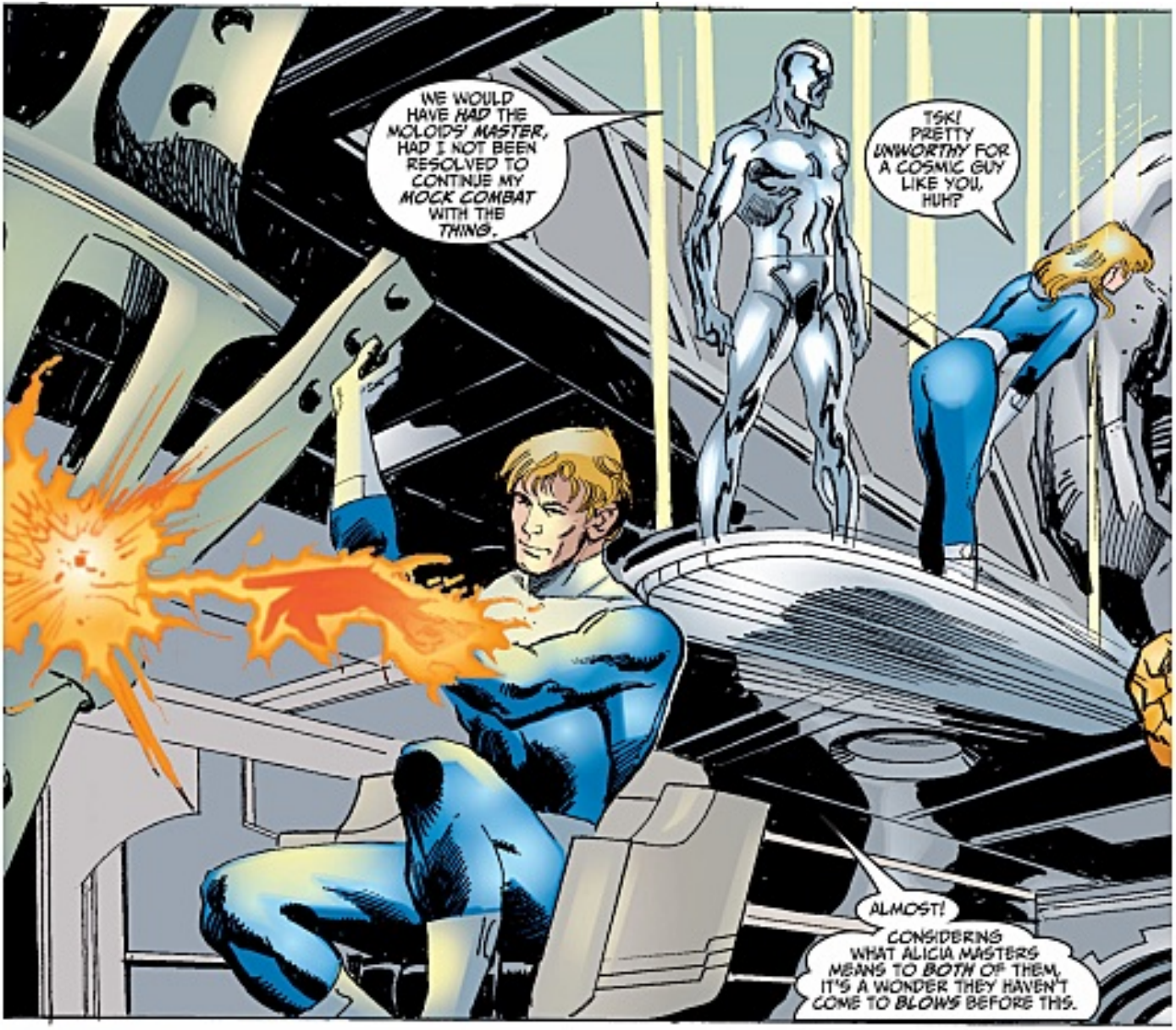
...REVEALING THE UNEXPECTED...
I DUNNO, STRETCH! THAT DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY METEOR I EVER SAW!
IT'S A SHIP, BEN! A PANEL'S SLIDING BACK!
SOMEBODY WAS IN THAT MESS... SOMEONE ALIVE!
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF 'EM!
NORRIN... YOU DID IT! YOU SAVED US!
BUT AT WHAT COST?

NO... NO COST. ONLY... GAIN.
MORE... LIVES SAVED... TO BALANCE... THE MILLIONS LOST.
YOU! WHO-WERE-HERALD!
THAT... THAT BEING... WAS... FROM THAT SHIPP
HE WAS BURNING AS THE SHIP FELL TOWARD EARTH! THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE SAVED HIM!
BEHIND ME... FOLLOWING...
HE'S STILL ALIVE... BARELY. SPEAKING TELEPATHICALLY.
THE MEREST WHISPER... MUSIC IN MY HEAD...A LAMENT... AND A WARNING.
...ATTACKED...
SOMEONE ATTACKED YOU? WHO...?
HE...! HE'S... COMING...
WARN US OF WHAT?
HE'S... GONE. HE WAS TRYING TO COME HERE... TO WARN US. SOMEONE TRIED TO STOP HIM.
HE SAID... "HE'S COMING"?
WHO'S COMING?
I DUNNO.
BUT I GOT THAT TWITCHY FEELIN' SOMETHIN' REAL BAD'S HEADIN' THIS WAY FAST!


THE WORLD BELOW ONCE PULSED WITH THE RHYTHMIC EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF A BILLION BEATING HEARTS.
ITS COMPOSERS STROVE TO CHART THE VAST SYMMETRIES OF THEIR UNIVERSE, AND, WITH MATHEMATICAL PRECISION, TO TRANSCRIBE THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES.
NOW, ITS SONG IS DONE.
IT IS FINISHED.
LIVING BEINGS HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR GHOSTS IN SPIRALING DISPLAYS OF COSMIC ENERGY.
ATOMS HAVE SPLIT AND SPLIT AGAIN... TILL THERE IS... SEEMINGLY... NOTHING THERE AT ALL.
AND YET NOTHING IS CREATED OR DESTROYED. SIMPLY TRANSMUTED... IT BECOMES.
ONCE, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP. ONCE HE WOULD HAVE RESTED. BUT NOW...
HERALD, FIND FOR ME ANOTHER WORLD.
I HUNGER.

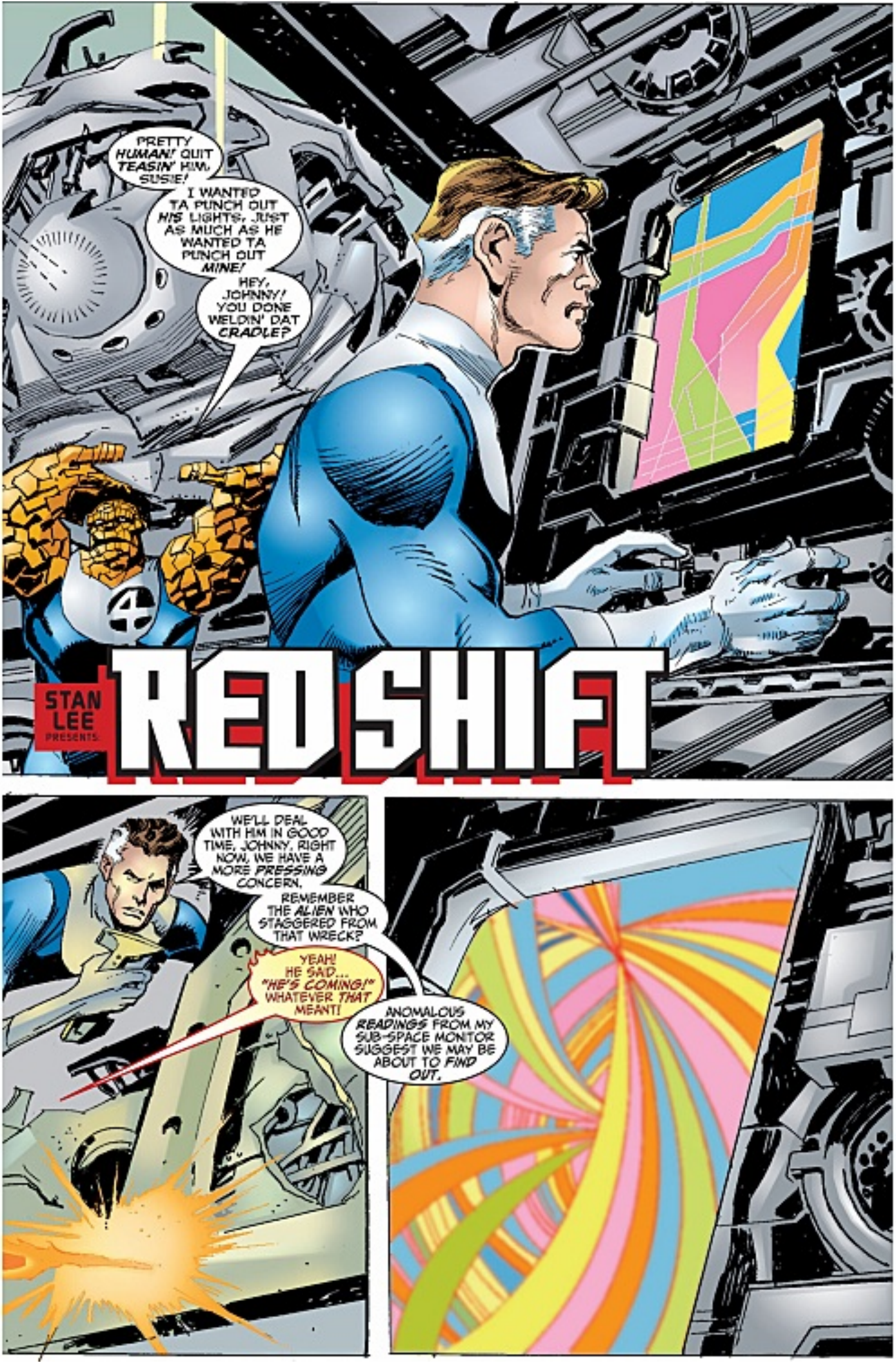
MARVEL COMICS
GALACTUS
THE DEVOURER
#2
WHEN HERALDS CLASH!
SIMONSON
BUSCEMA
SIENKIEWICZ

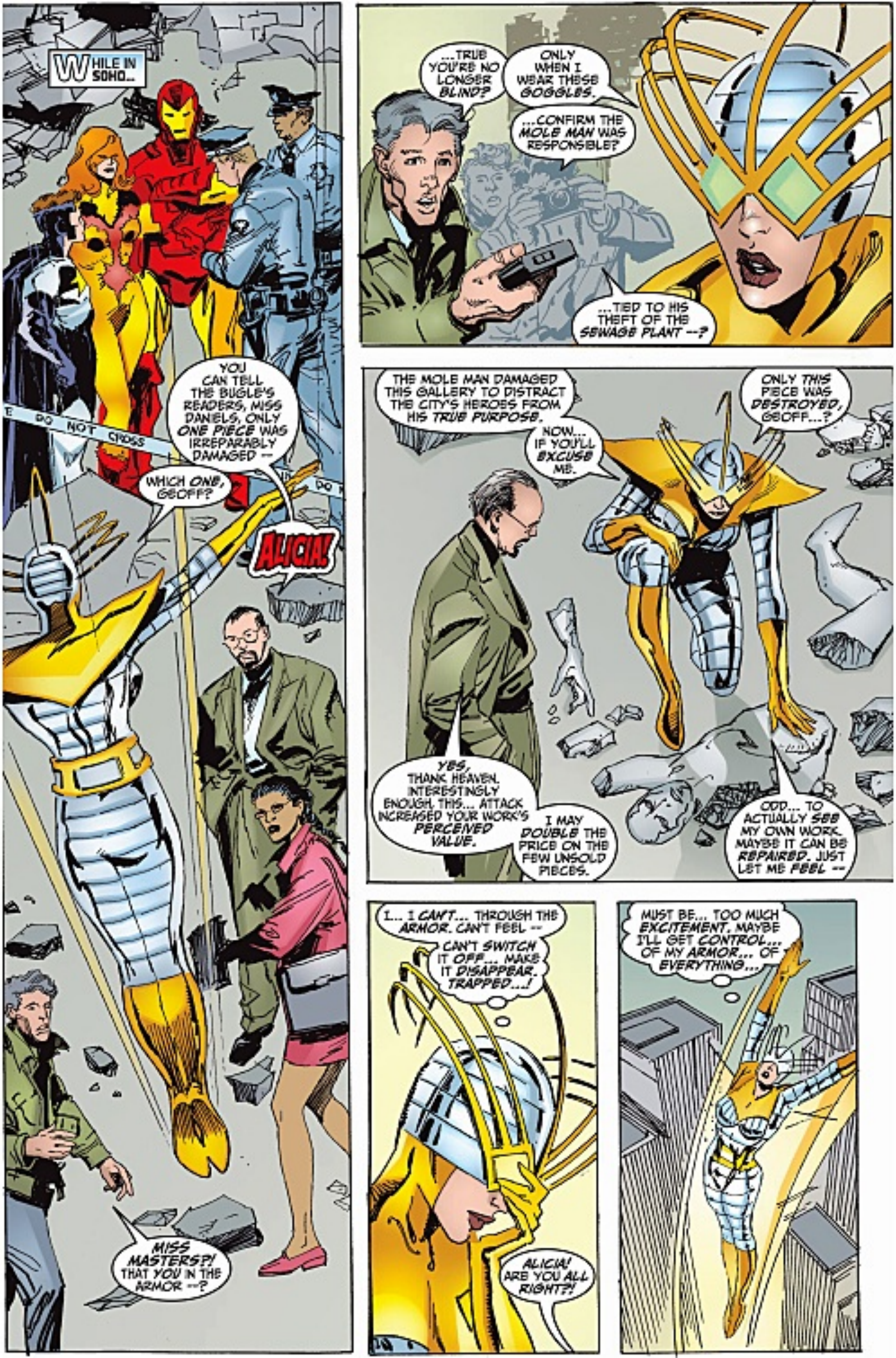
SOME SAY MANHATTAN IS A UNIVERSE UNTO ITSELF. THE FAR-ROAMING SILVER SURFER, FAMED THROUGHOUT A THOUSAND GALAXIES, KNOWS BETTER. YET EVEN HE MUST MARVEL AS HE SOARS ABOVE THE CITY'S SHIMMERING SPIRES.
SUE RICHARDS RIDES BESIDE HIM, PROJECTING AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD WHICH ENCLOSES THE WRECKAGE OF AN ALIEN SPACE CRAFT.
THEY SPEAK, HOWEVER, NOT OF THE SHIP, NOR THE DYING PILOT WHO STUMBLED FROM IT, NOR HIS WHISPERED WARNING.
THEY DISCUSS, INSTEAD, THE MORE MUNDANE BUT STILL BIZARRE ROBBERY THAT HAPPENED EARLIER...
THE MOLE MAN'S THEFT OF THE CITY'S SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS MY FAULT, SUE.
HAD I CAPTURED HIM WHEN I FIRST HAD THE OPPORTUNITY --
HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR SELF-FLAGELLATION, NORRIN, BUT HIS MOLOID SUBJECTS WOULD HAVE CARRIED OUT HIS ORDERS ANYWAY.
THE DESTRUCTION OF ALICIA'S GALLERY... AND THE THEFT OF THE PLANT WOULD HAVE OCCURED AS SCHEDULED.
LOUISE SIMONSON
STORY
JOHN BUSCEMA
PENCILS
BILL SIENKIEWICZ
INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORS
RS&COMICRAFT
LETTERS
BRIAN SMITH
ASSIST ED.
BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF
OBEYING THE SURFER'S MENTAL COMMAND, THE GLEAMING BOARD DIPS TOWARD PIER FOUR, HEADQUARTERS OF THE TEAM KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.


WE WOULD HAVE *HAD* THE MOLOIDS' *MASTER*, HAD I NOT BEEN RESOLVED TO CONTINUE MY *MOCK COMBAT* WITH THE *THING*.
TSK! PRETTY *UNWORTHY* FOR A COSMIC GUY LIKE YOU, HUH?
ALMOST!
CONSIDERING WHAT ALICIA MASTERS MEANS TO *BOTH* OF THEM, IT'S A WONDER THEY HAVEN'T COME TO *BLOWS* BEFORE THIS.

BUT... I'M *NOT* HUMAN, AND MY *POWER* WASN'T GIVEN ME TO SETTLE PETTY *GRUDGES*.
NAW! *GALACTUS* GAVE YOU YER POWER SO YOU COULD FIND NEW *PLANETS* FER HIM TA *CHOW DOWN* ON.
NOT THAT ANYBODY'S COUNTIN' IT *AGAINST* YA!

THE MOLE MAN'S THEFT HARDLY MATTERS, PEOPLE. THE TREATMENT PLANT WAS OLD AND SCHEDULED TO BE *REPLACED* SOON ANYWAY.
I'VE ALREADY INSTALLED A TEMPORARY *CONVERTER* TO DEAL WITH THE SEWAGE PROBLEM.
BUT REED -- WE CAN'T JUST LET MOLEY GET *AWAY* WITH IT!


PRETTY HUMAN! QUIT TEASIN' HIM, SUSIE!
I WANTED TA PUNCH OUT HIS LIGHTS, JUST AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TA PUNCH OUT MINE!
HEY, JOHNNY! YOU DONE WELDIN' DAT CRADLE?
STAN LEE PRESENTS
REDSHIFT
WE'LL DEAL WITH HIM IN GOOD TIME, JOHNNY, RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE A MORE PRESSING CONCERN.
REMEMBER THE ALIEN WHO STAGGERED FROM THAT WRECK?
YEAH! HE SAID... "HE'S COMING!" WHATEVER THAT MEANT!
ANOMALOUS READINGS FROM MY SUB-SPACE MONITOR SUGGEST WE MAY BE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.


WHILE IN SOHO...
DO NOT CROSS
YOU CAN TELL THE BUGLE'S READERS, MISS DANIELS, ONLY ONE PIECE WAS IRREPARABLY DAMAGED --
WHICH ONE, GEOFF?
ALICIA!
MISS MASTERS?! THAT YOU IN THE ARMOR --?
...TRUE YOU'RE NO LONGER BLIND?
ONLY WHEN I WEAR THESE GOGGLES.
...CONFIRM THE MOLE MAN WAS RESPONSIBLE?
...TIED TO HIS THEFT OF THE SEWAGE PLANT --?
THE MOLE MAN DAMAGED THIS GALLERY TO DISTRACT THE CITY'S HEROES FROM HIS TRUE PURPOSE.
NOW... IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
ONLY THIS PIECE WAS DESTROYED, GEOFF...?
YES, THANK HEAVEN. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, THIS... ATTACK INCREASED YOUR WORK'S PERCEIVED VALUE.
I MAY DOUBLE THE PRICE ON THE FEW UNSOLD PIECES.
ODD... TO ACTUALLY SEE MY OWN WORK. MAYBE IT CAN BE REPAIRED. JUST LET ME FEEL --
I... I CAN'T... THROUGH THE ARMOR. CAN'T FEEL --
CAN'T SWITCH IT OFF... MAKE IT DISAPPEAR. TRAPPED...!
ALICIA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
MUST BE... TOO MUCH EXCITEMENT. MAYBE I'LL GET CONTROL... OF MY ARMOR... OF EVERYTHING...

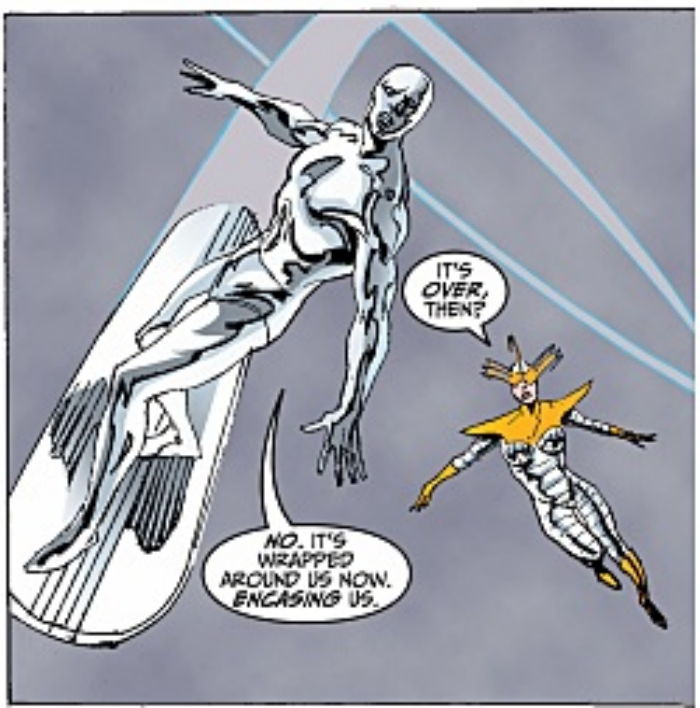
"...IF I CAN JUST... GET HOME!"
CRASH
THAT CAME FROM ALICIA'S LOFT!
ALICIA! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
MY... MY ARMOR! NORRIN... IT WON'T GO AWAY! I CAN'T... GET IT OFF!
TRAPPED! CAN'T FEEL... ANYTHING! LIKE... WEARING THICK GLOVES!
CAN'T WORK -- OR SCULPT! -- FEEL LIKE... IT'S CRUSHING... MY SOUL!
CALM DOWN, ALICIA. CONCENTRATE. THINK.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOW THE ARMOR OPERATES?
I WAS TOLD... BY CY-PHRR, WHO CREATED IT... THAT IT WOULD RESPOND TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS... EVEN UNCONSCIOUS ONES.
THAT IT WOULD PROTECT ME...
OH, LORD... MAYBE I CAN'T GET RID OF IT BECAUSE, ON SOME LEVEL, I DON'T WANT TO?!
NO! THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! I HATE IT... DON'T WANT --
THERE'S ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, MY LOVE. SOMETHING'S COMING. TOWARD EARTH...
...SO FAST IT'S WARPING SPACE AROUND IT AS IT TRAVELS.
YOU MEAN... MY ARMOR KNOWS.
AND IT WILL PROTECT YOU WHILE I FIND OUT WHAT IT IS...
WAIT! I... I WANT TO GO WITH YOU.
TAKE ME! PLEASE. IF I HAVE TO STAY HERE... TRAPPED... ABLE TO DO NOTHING... I'LL GO MAD!

IS THIS HOW YOU FELT WHEN GALACTUS ENCASED YOU IN SILVER... AND MADE YOU THE SILVER SURFER?
FUNNY. I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING. I CAN SEE, YOU KNOW... IN MY DREAMS. BUT THIS KIND OF SEEING... IT'S ODD!
ALMOST LIKE I'VE LOST MY OTHER SENSES... OF TOUCH... TO SEE THE PATTERN OF THINGS... LIKE THEY REALLY ARE.
I... CAN'T CREATE. IT'S LIKE LIVING INSIDE A PRISON.

I FELT... JUST THE OPPOSITE. MY TRANSFORMATION WAS LIKE THE OPENING OF A PRISON DOOR.
IT FREED ME TO BECOME WHAT I'D ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING. IT GAVE ME... ALL THIS... AND YOU.
THERE! CAN YOU SENSE IT?! COMING AT US... LIKE A WAVE!

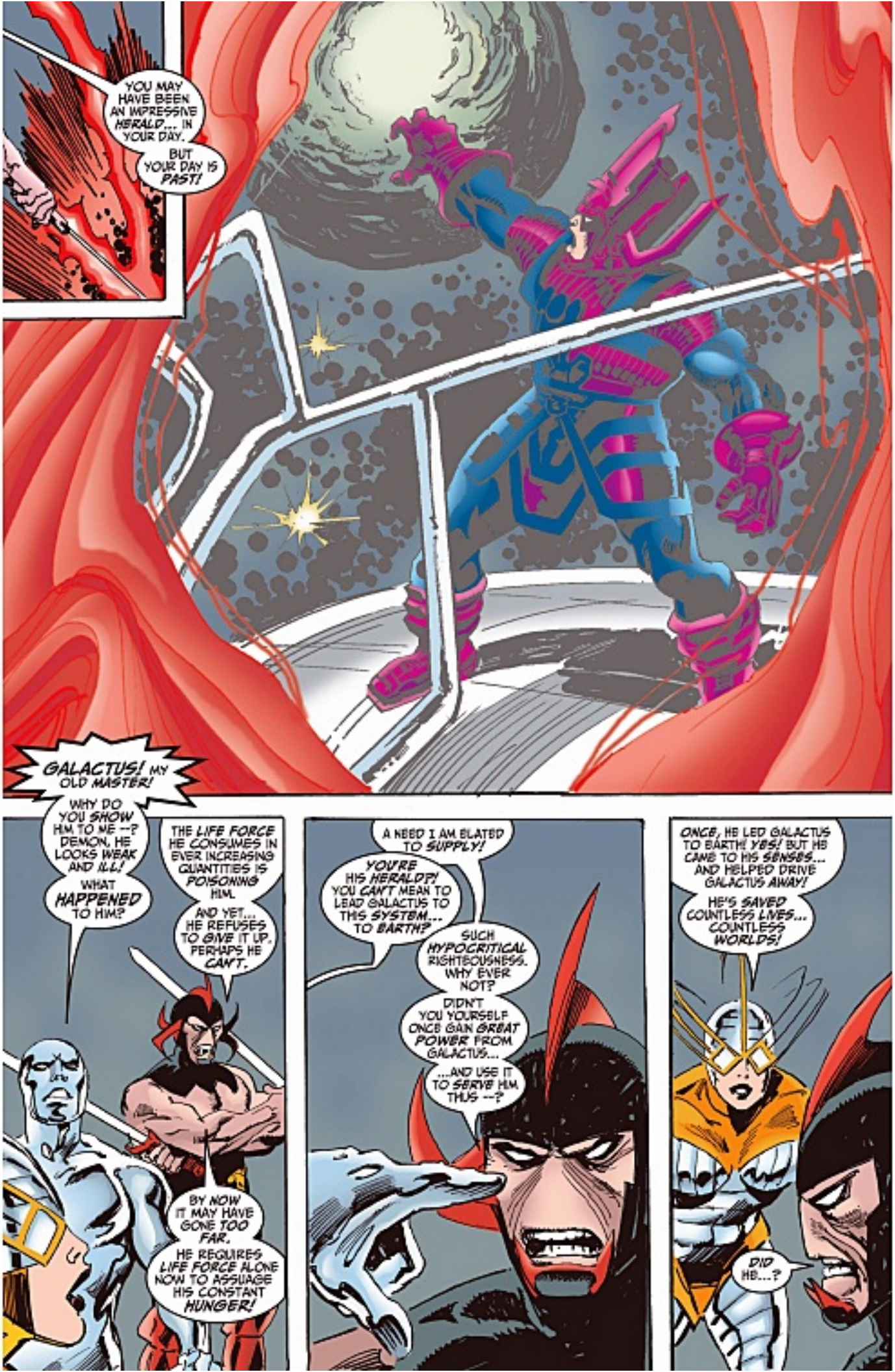
MORE LIKE A TIDAL WAVE! WHAT IS IT?

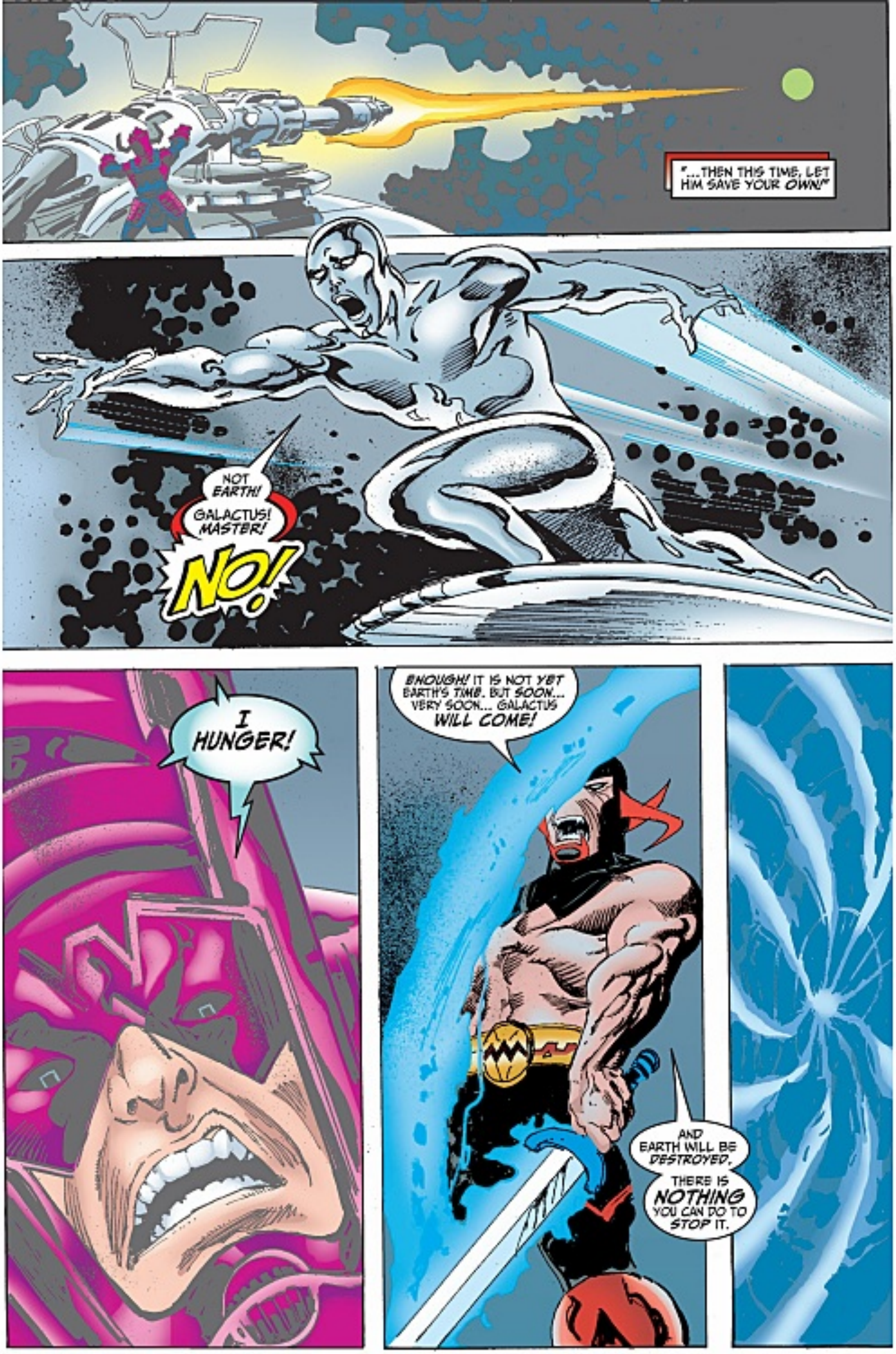
A RIPPLE IN HYPERSPACE...
...MOVING PAST US!

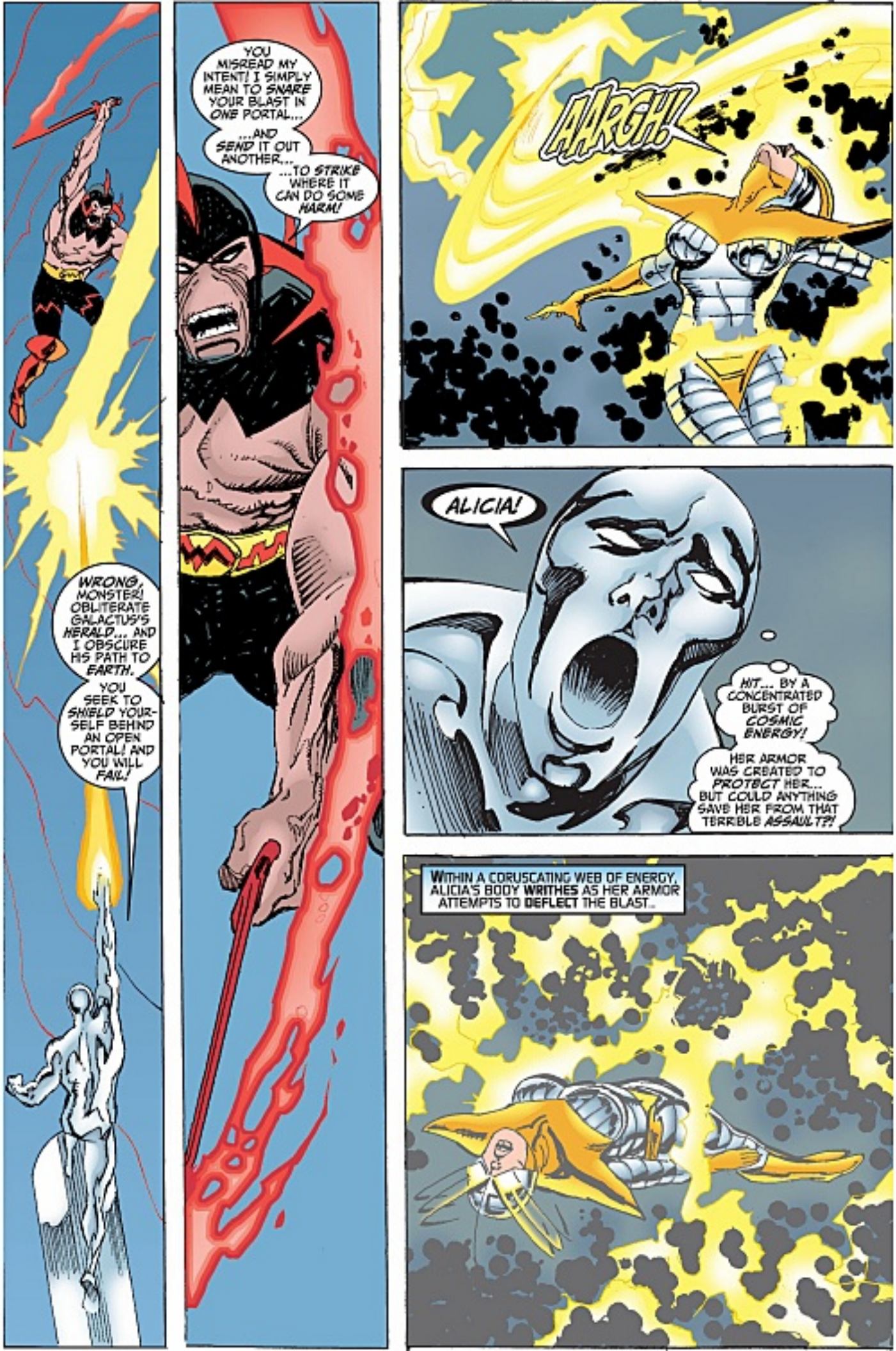

IT'S OVER, THEN?
NO. IT'S WRAPPED AROUND US NOW. ENCASING US.

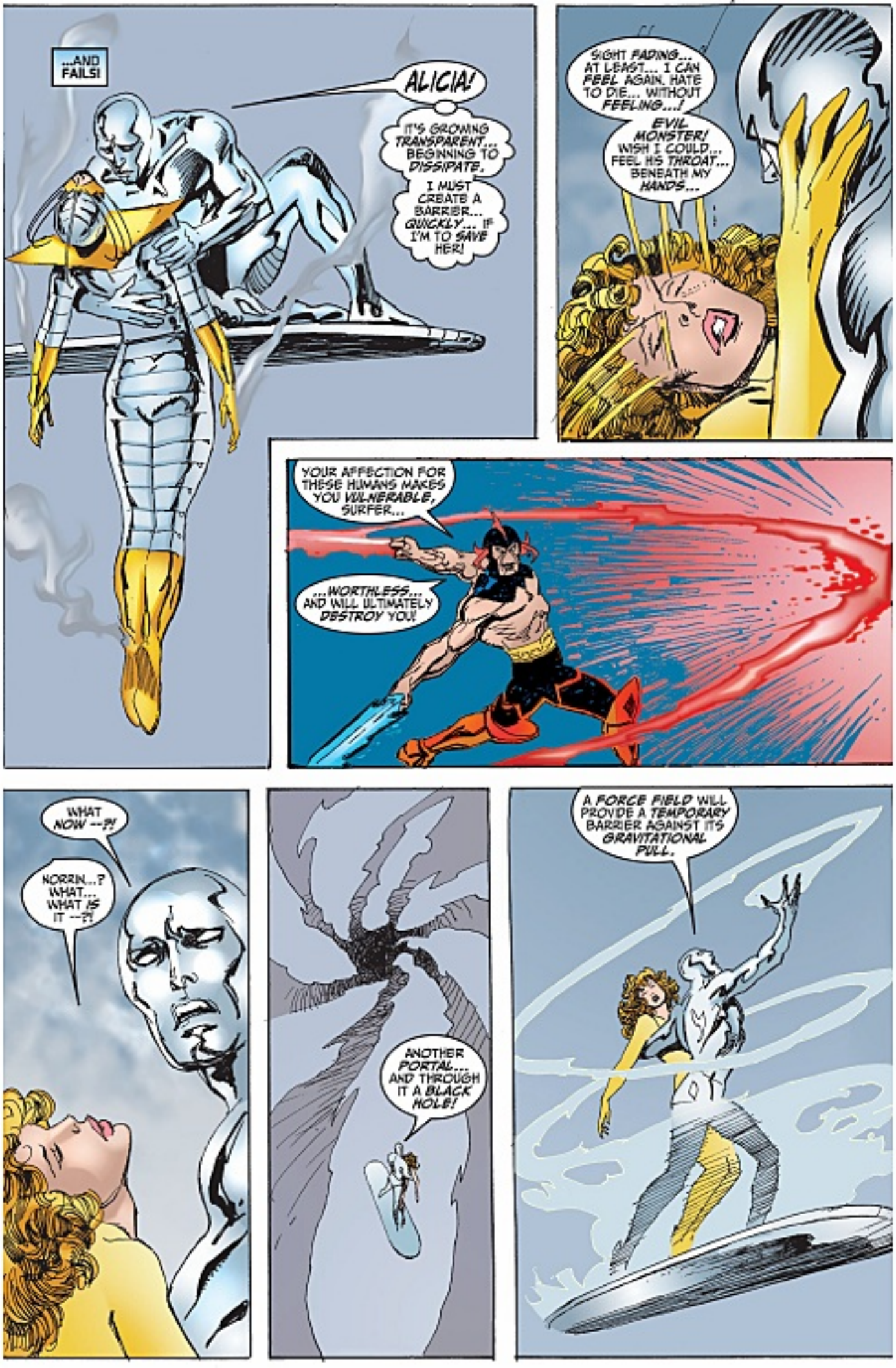
WE'RE TRAPPED --?! BY WHOM?
BRACE YOURSELF! WE'RE ABOUT TO LEARN --!
A GLOWING SWORD SLICES THE AIR IN FRONT OF THEM... A BLAST OF ULTRAVIOLET ENERGY STAINS THE HYPERSPHERE WEB THE COLOR OF TEARS... AND THE FABRIC OF SPACE/TIME IS RIPPED ASUNDER.
THROUGH THIS RAGGED PORTAL STEPS A GLOWING FIGURE.
I AM CALLED RED SHIFT --

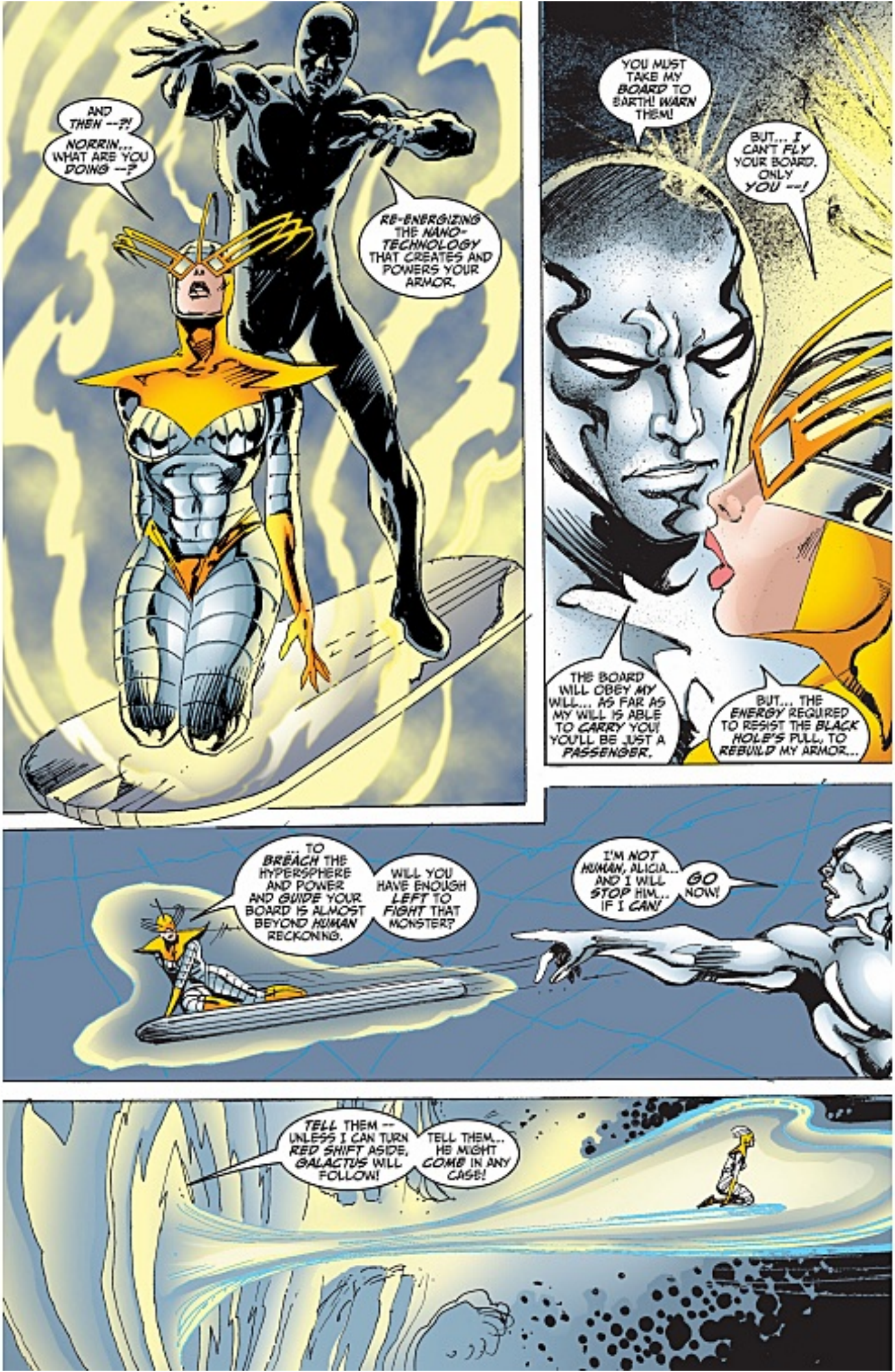
— BY HIM WHO GAVE ME POWER!
HE CUT A DIMENSIONAL RIFT!
SHIFTED A METEOR... FROM ITS OWN TIME AND SPACE TO HERE... AND NOW!
THE NAME RED SHIFT SOUNDS... FAMILIAR. REED RICHARDS ONCE EXPLAINED IT'S HOW WE PERCEIVE LIGHT OVER VAST DISTANCES.
THINGS... STARS... TRAVELING AWAY FROM US... APPEAR RED. WHILE THOSE TRAVELING TOWARD US LOOK BLUE.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS... HORROR?!
HE TRAVELS IN BURSTS OF LIGHT...
... EVEN OPENS DIMENSIONAL PORTALS... THROUGH A COMPLEX ARRAY OF POWERS...
... INVOLVING MANIPULATION OF SPACE, TIME AND THE ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY THAT BINDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER.
BUT... YOU ALSO WIELD THOSE COSMIC ENERGIES.
IN MUCH THE SAME WAY, THAT IS WHAT WORRIES ME.
YOU'RE WORTHY OF YOUR REPUTATION, SURFER.

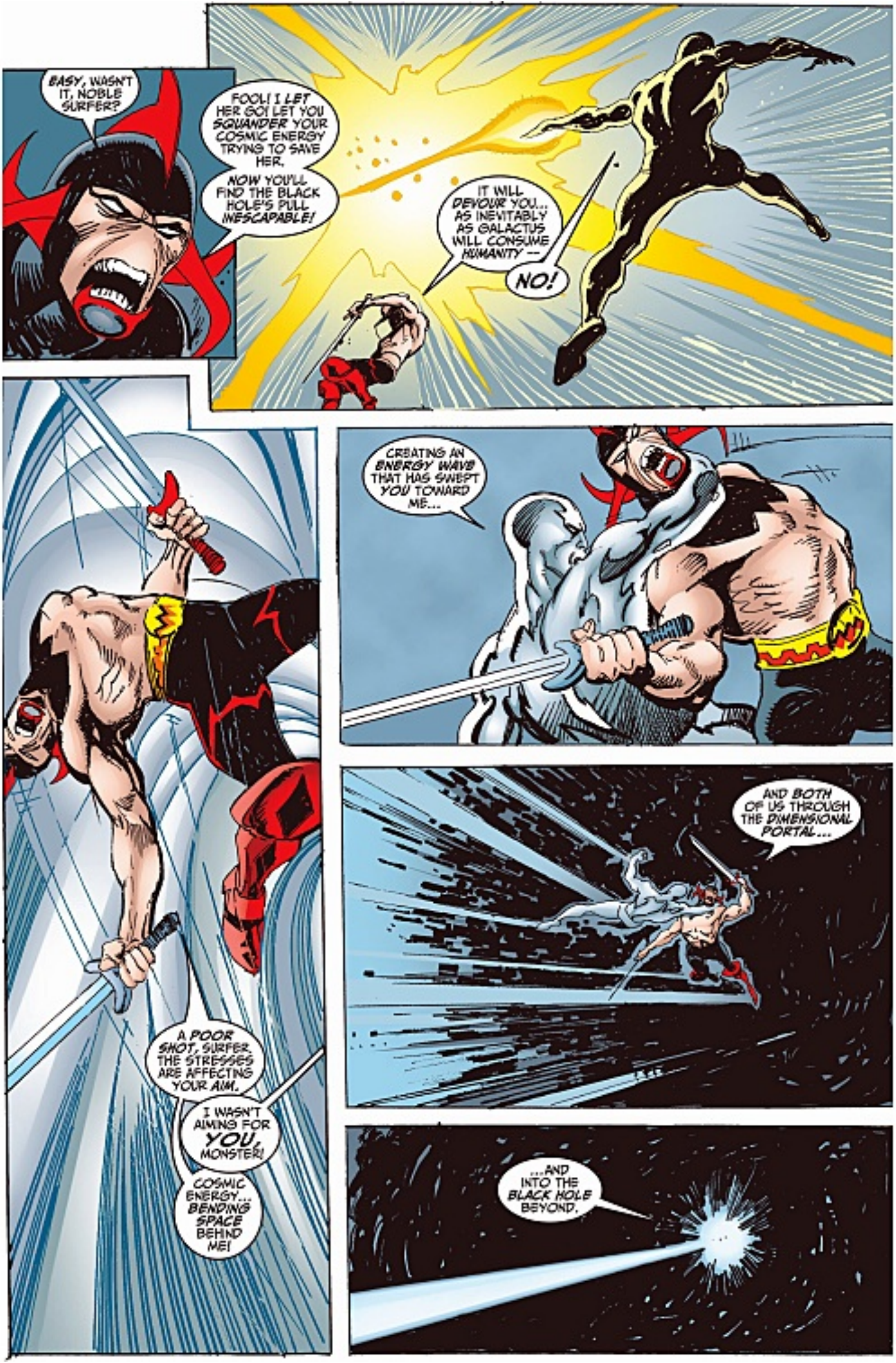

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE HERALD... IN YOUR DAY.
BUT YOUR DAY IS PAST!
GALACTUS! MY OLD MASTER!
WHY DO YOU SHOW HIM TO ME --? DEMON, HE LOOKS WEAK AND ILL!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
THE LIFE FORCE HE CONSUMES IN EVER INCREASING QUANTITIES IS POISONING HIM.
AND YET... HE REFUSES TO GIVE IT UP. PERHAPS HE CAN'T.
BY NOW IT MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR.
HE REQUIRES LIFE FORCE ALONE NOW TO ASSUAGE HIS CONSTANT HUNGER!
A NEED I AM ELATED TO SUPPLY!
YOU'RE HIS HERALD?! YOU CAN'T MEAN TO LEAD GALACTUS TO THIS SYSTEM... TO EARTH?
SUCH HYPOCRITICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS. WHY EVER NOT?
DIDN'T YOU YOURSELF ONCE GAIN GREAT POWER FROM GALACTUS...
...AND USE IT TO SERVE HIM. THUS --?
ONCE, HE LED GALACTUS TO EARTH! YES! BUT HE CAME TO HIS SENSES... AND HELPED DRIVE GALACTUS AWAY!
HE'S SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES... COUNTLESS WORLDS!
DID HE...?

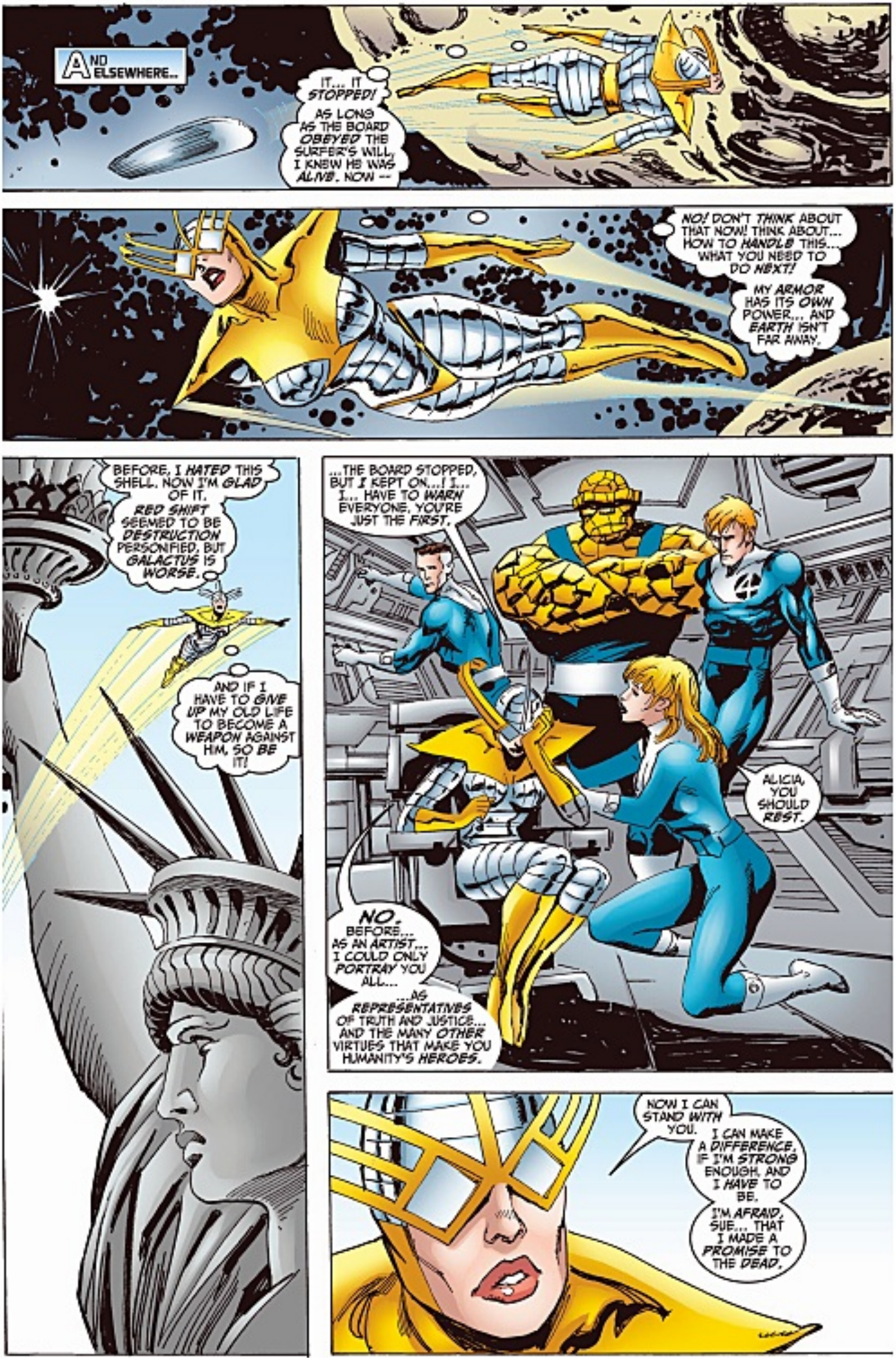

"...THEN THIS TIME, LET HIM SAVE YOUR OWN!"
NOT EARTH!
GALACTUS! MASTER!
NO!
I HUNGER!
ENOUGH! IT IS NOT YET EARTH'S TIME. BUT SOON... VERY SOON... GALACTUS WILL COME!
AND EARTH WILL BE DESTROYED.
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT.

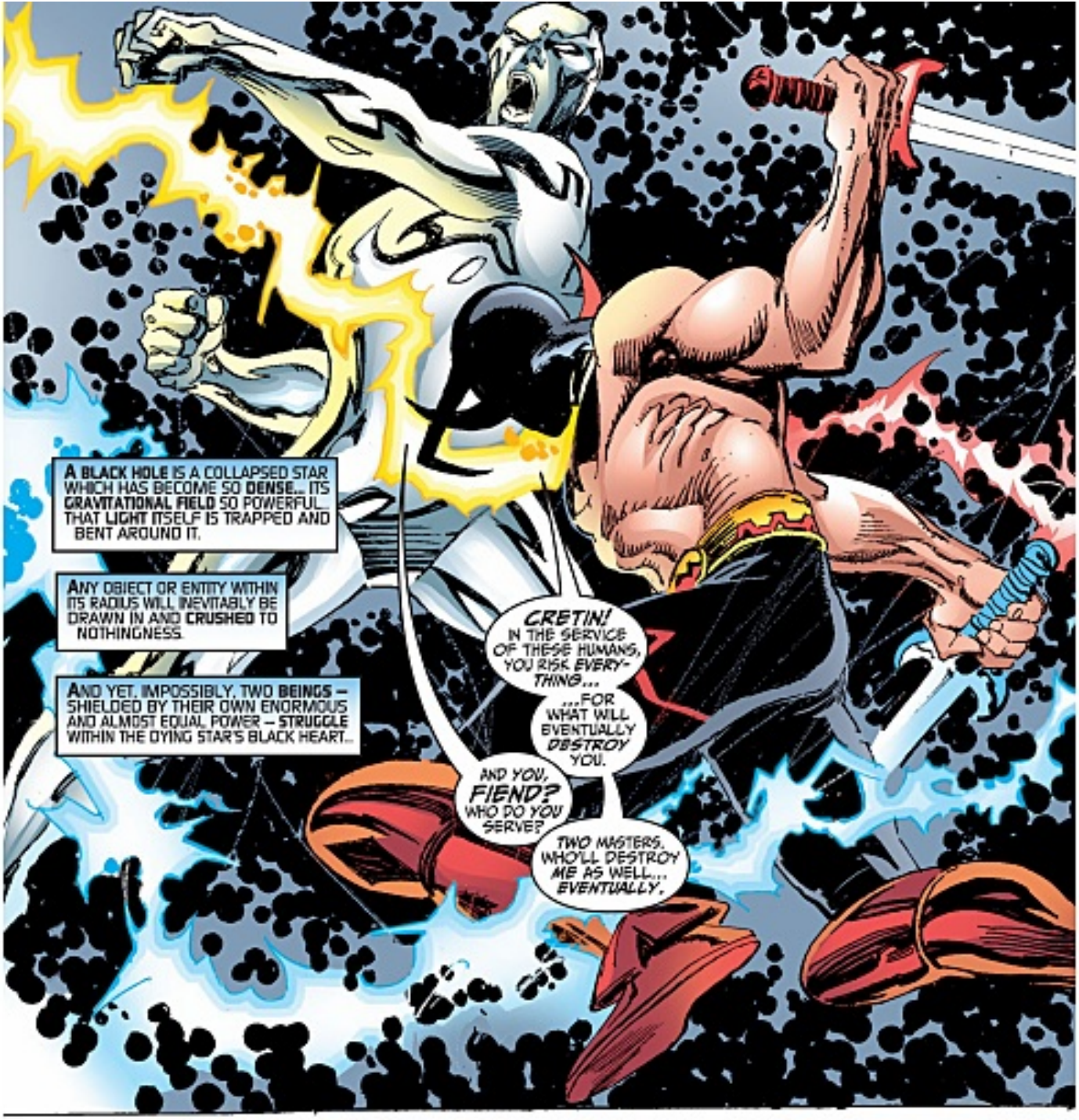

WRONG, MONSTER! OBLITERATE GALACTUS'S HERALD... AND I OBSCURE HIS PATH TO EARTH.
YOU SEEK TO SHIELD YOURSELF BEHIND AN OPEN PORTAL! AND YOU WILL FAIL!
YOU MISREAD MY INTENT! I SIMPLY MEAN TO SNARE YOUR BLAST IN ONE PORTAL...
...AND SEND IT OUT ANOTHER...
...TO STRIKE WHERE IT CAN DO SOME HARM!
AARGH!
ALICIA!
HIT... BY A CONCENTRATED BURST OF COSMIC ENERGY!
HER ARMOR WAS CREATED TO PROTECT HER... BUT COULD ANYTHING SAVE HER FROM THAT TERRIBLE ASSAULT?!
WITHIN A CORUSCATING WEB OF ENERGY, ALICIA'S BODY WRITHES AS HER ARMOR ATTEMPTS TO DEFLECT THE BLAST..


...AND FAILS!
ALICIA!
IT'S GROWING TRANSPARENT... BEGINNING TO DISSIPATE.
I MUST CREATE A BARRIER... QUICKLY... IF I'M TO SAVE HER!
SIGHT FADING... AT LEAST... I CAN FEEL AGAIN. HATE TO DIE... WITHOUT FEELING...!
EVIL MONSTER! WISH I COULD... FEEL HIS THROAT... BENEATH MY HANDS...
YOUR AFFECTION FOR THESE HUMANS MAKES YOU VULNERABLE, SURFER...
...WORTHLESS... AND WILL ULTIMATELY DESTROY YOU!
WHAT NOW --?!
NORRIN...? WHAT... WHAT IS IT --?!
ANOTHER PORTAL... AND THROUGH IT A BLACK HOLE!
A FORCE FIELD WILL PROVIDE A TEMPORARY BARRIER AGAINST ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL.

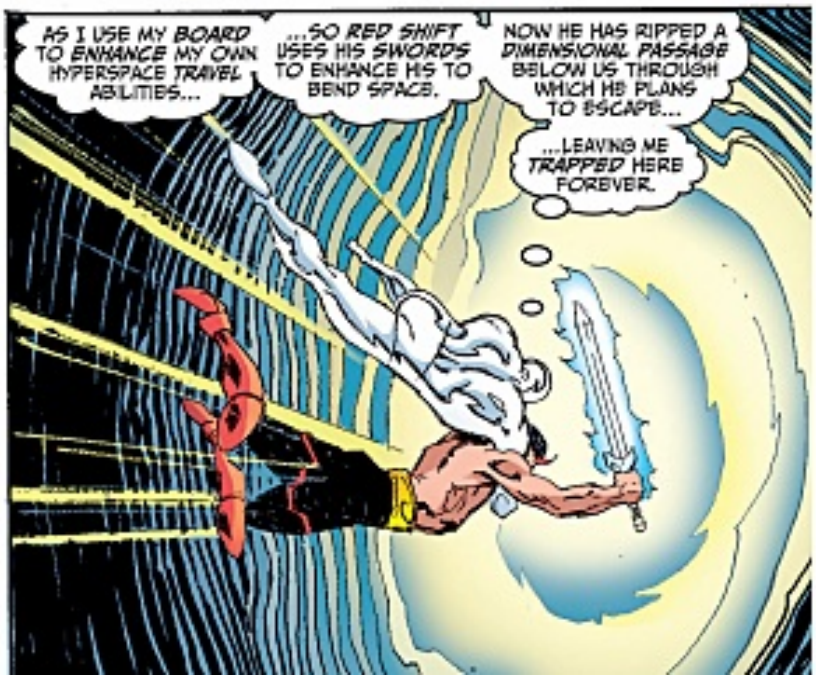

AND THEN --?!
NORRIN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING --?
RE-ENERGIZING THE NANO-TECHNOLOGY THAT CREATES AND POWERS YOUR ARMOR.
YOU MUST TAKE MY BOARD TO EARTH! WARN THEM!
BUT... I CAN'T FLY YOUR BOARD. ONLY YOU --!
THE BOARD WILL OBEY MY WILL... AS FAR AS MY WILL IS ABLE TO CARRY YOU! YOU'LL BE JUST A PASSENGER.
BUT... THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO RESIST THE BLACK HOLE'S PULL, TO REBUILD MY ARMOR...
... TO BREACH THE HYPERSPHERE AND POWER AND GUIDE YOUR BOARD IS ALMOST BEYOND HUMAN RECKONING.
WILL YOU HAVE ENOUGH LEFT TO FIGHT THAT MONSTER?
I'M NOT HUMAN, ALICIA... AND I WILL STOP HIM... IF I CAN!
GO NOW!
TELL THEM -- UNLESS I CAN TURN RED SHIFT ASIDE, GALACTUS WILL FOLLOW!
TELL THEM... HE MIGHT COME IN ANY CASE!

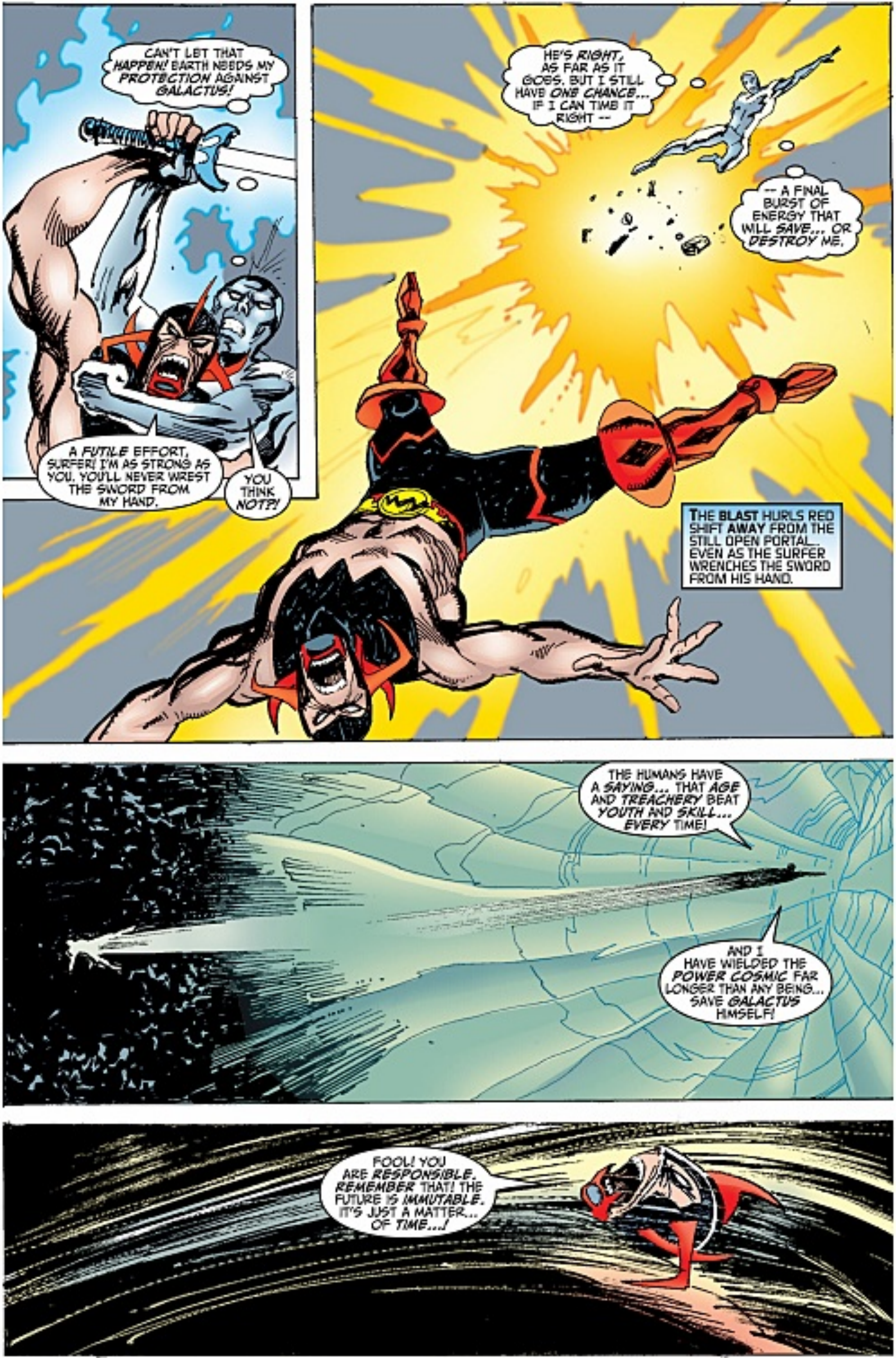

EASY, WASN'T IT, NOBLE SURFER?
FOOL! I LET HER GO! LET YOU SQUANDER YOUR COSMIC ENERGY TRYING TO SAVE HER.
NOW YOU'LL FIND THE BLACK HOLE'S PULL INESCAPABLE!
IT WILL DEVOUR YOU... AS INEVITABLY AS GALACTUS WILL CONSUME HUMANITY —
NO!
CREATING AN ENERGY WAVE THAT HAS SWEPT YOU TOWARD ME...
A POOR SHOT, SURFER. THE STRESSES ARE AFFECTING YOUR AIM.
I WASN'T AIMING FOR YOU, MONSTER!
COSMIC ENERGY... BENDING SPACE BEHIND ME!
AND BOTH OF US THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...
...AND INTO THE BLACK HOLE BEYOND.

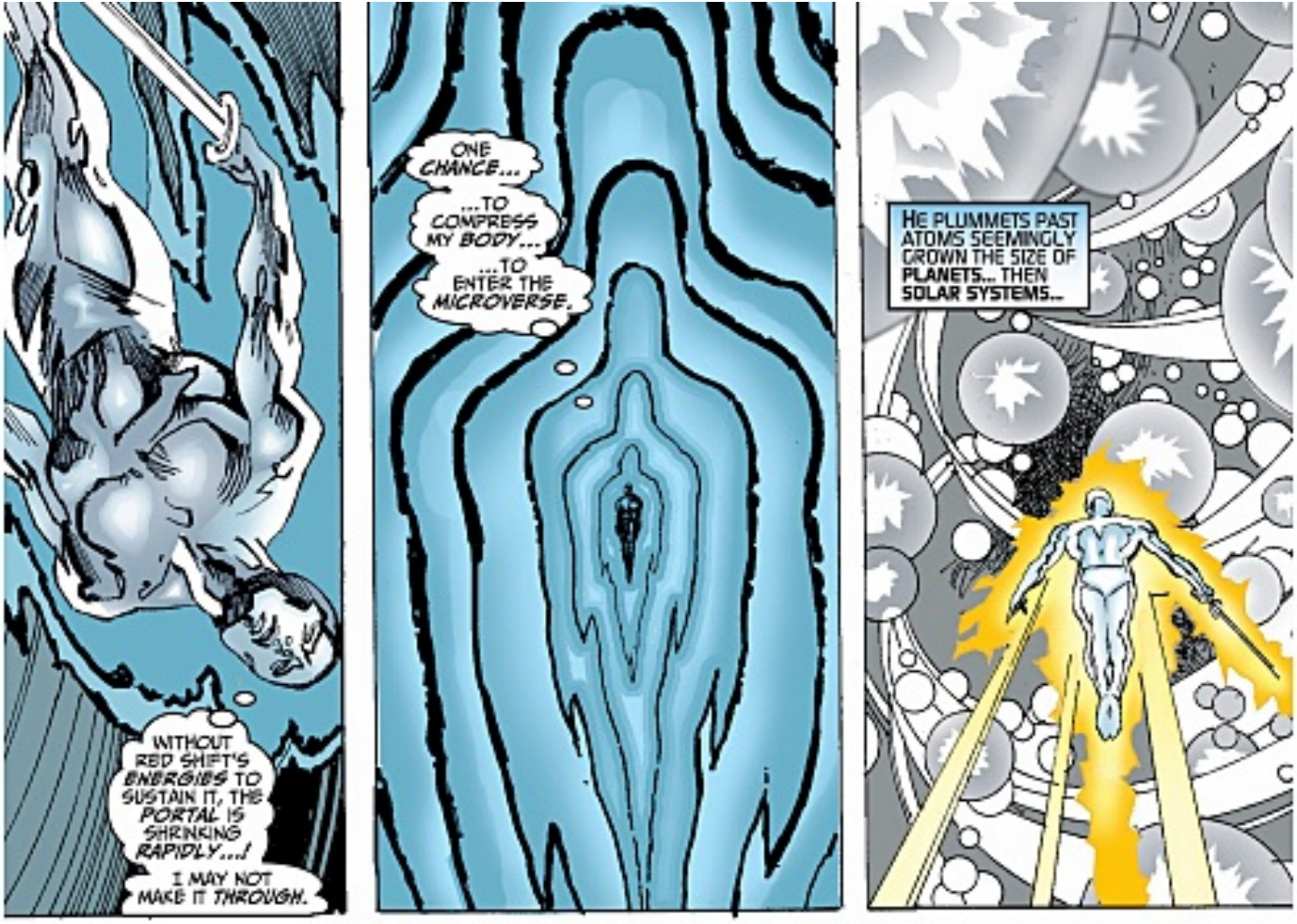

AND ELSEWHERE...
IT... IT STOPPED!
AS LONG AS THE BOARD OBEYED THE SURFER'S WILL, I KNEW HE WAS ALIVE. NOW --
NO! DON'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW! THINK ABOUT... HOW TO HANDLE THIS... WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT!
MY ARMOR HAS ITS OWN POWER... AND EARTH ISN'T FAR AWAY.
BEFORE, I HATED THIS SHELL. NOW I'M GLAD OF IT.
RED SHIFT SEEMED TO BE DESTRUCTION PERSONIFIED. BUT GALACTUS IS WORSE.
AND IF I HAVE TO GIVE UP MY OLD LIFE TO BECOME A WEAPON AGAINST HIM, SO BE IT!
...THE BOARD STOPPED, BUT I KEPT ON... I I... I... HAVE TO WARN EVERYONE, YOU'RE JUST THE FIRST.
ALICIA, YOU SHOULD REST.
NO. BEFORE... AS AN ARTIST... I COULD ONLY PORTRAY YOU ALL...
...AS REPRESENTATIVES OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE... AND THE MANY OTHER VIRTUES THAT MAKE YOU HUMANITY'S HEROES.
NOW I CAN STAND WITH YOU.
I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, IF I'M STRONG ENOUGH, AND I HAVE TO BE.
I'M AFRAID, SUE... THAT I MADE A PROMISE TO THE DEAD.

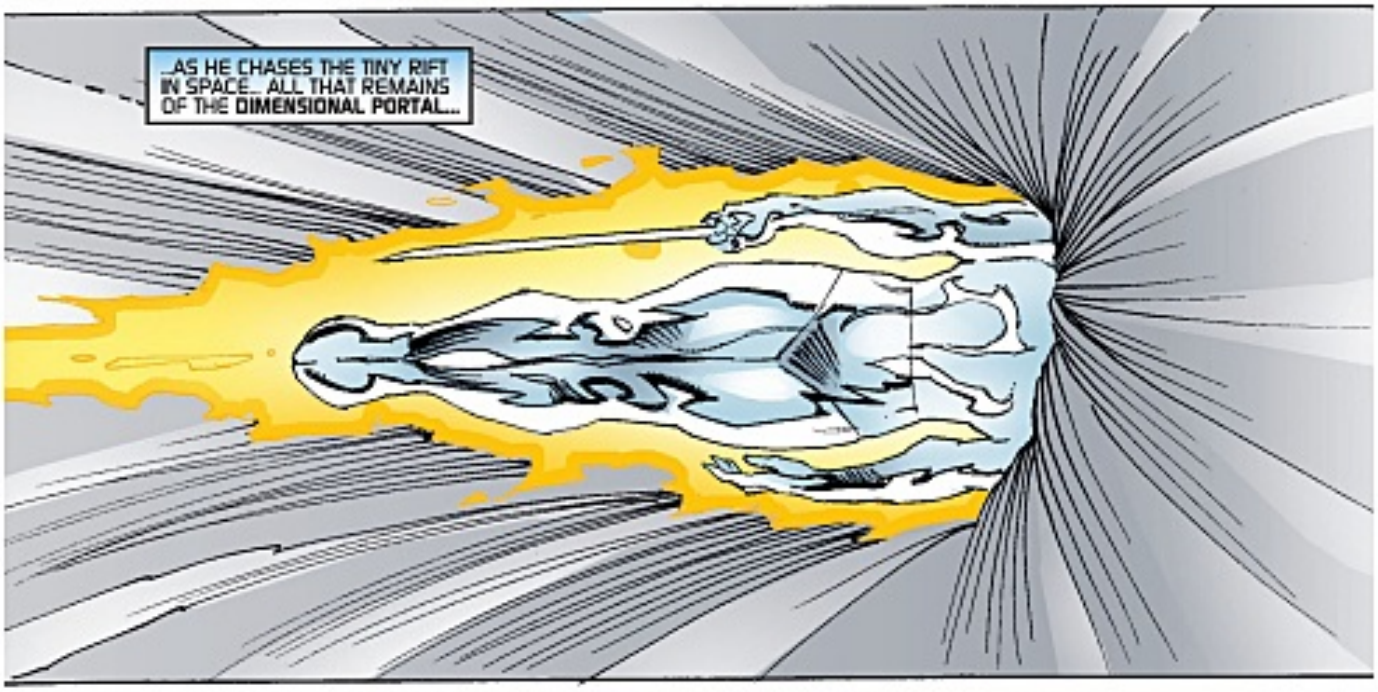

A BLACK HOLE IS A COLLAPSED STAR WHICH HAS BECOME SO DENSE... ITS GRAVITATIONAL FIELD SO POWERFUL THAT LIGHT ITSELF IS TRAPPED AND BENT AROUND IT.
ANY OBJECT OR ENTITY WITHIN ITS RADIUS WILL INEVITABLY BE DRAWN IN AND CRUSHED TO NOTHINGNESS.
AND YET, IMPOSSIBLY, TWO BEINGS – SHIELDED BY THEIR OWN ENORMOUS AND ALMOST EQUAL POWER – STRUGGLE WITHIN THE DYING STAR'S BLACK HEART...
CRETIN! IN THE SERVICE OF THESE HUMANS, YOU RISK EVERYTHING...
...FOR WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY YOU.
AND YOU, FIEND? WHO DO YOU SERVE?
TWO MASTERS, WHO'LL DESTROY ME AS WELL... EVENTUALLY.

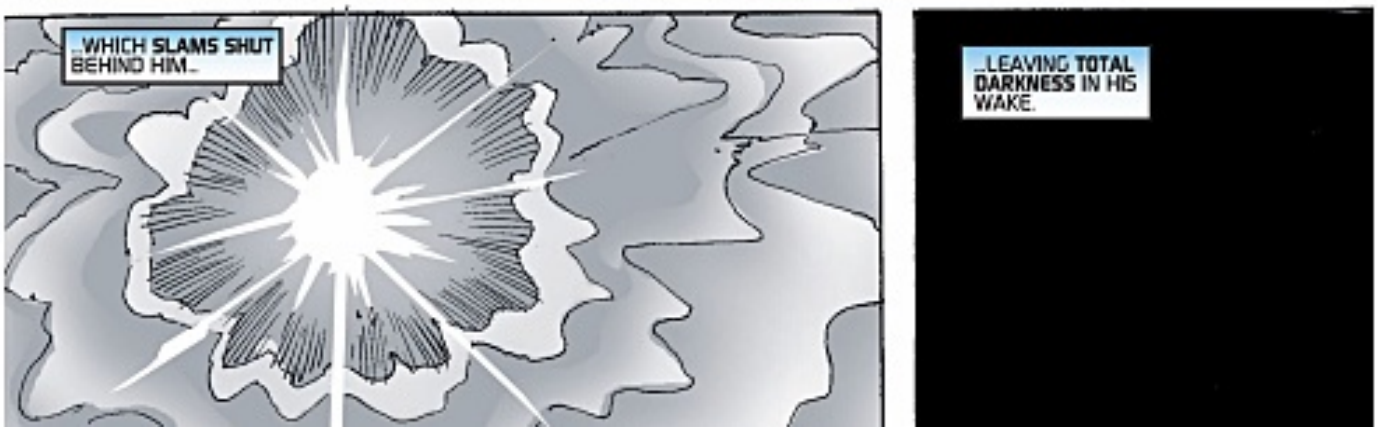
I ACCEPT THAT... AND I TURN MY LOATHING OUTWARD.
YOU DESTROY ONLY YOURSELF!


AS I USE MY BOARD TO ENHANCE MY OWN HYPERSPACE TRAVEL ABILITIES...
...SO RED SHIFT USES HIS SWORDS TO ENHANCE HIS TO BEND SPACE.
NOW HE HAS RIPPED A DIMENSIONAL PASSAGE BELOW US THROUGH WHICH HE PLANS TO ESCAPE...
...LEAVING ME TRAPPED HERE FOREVER.

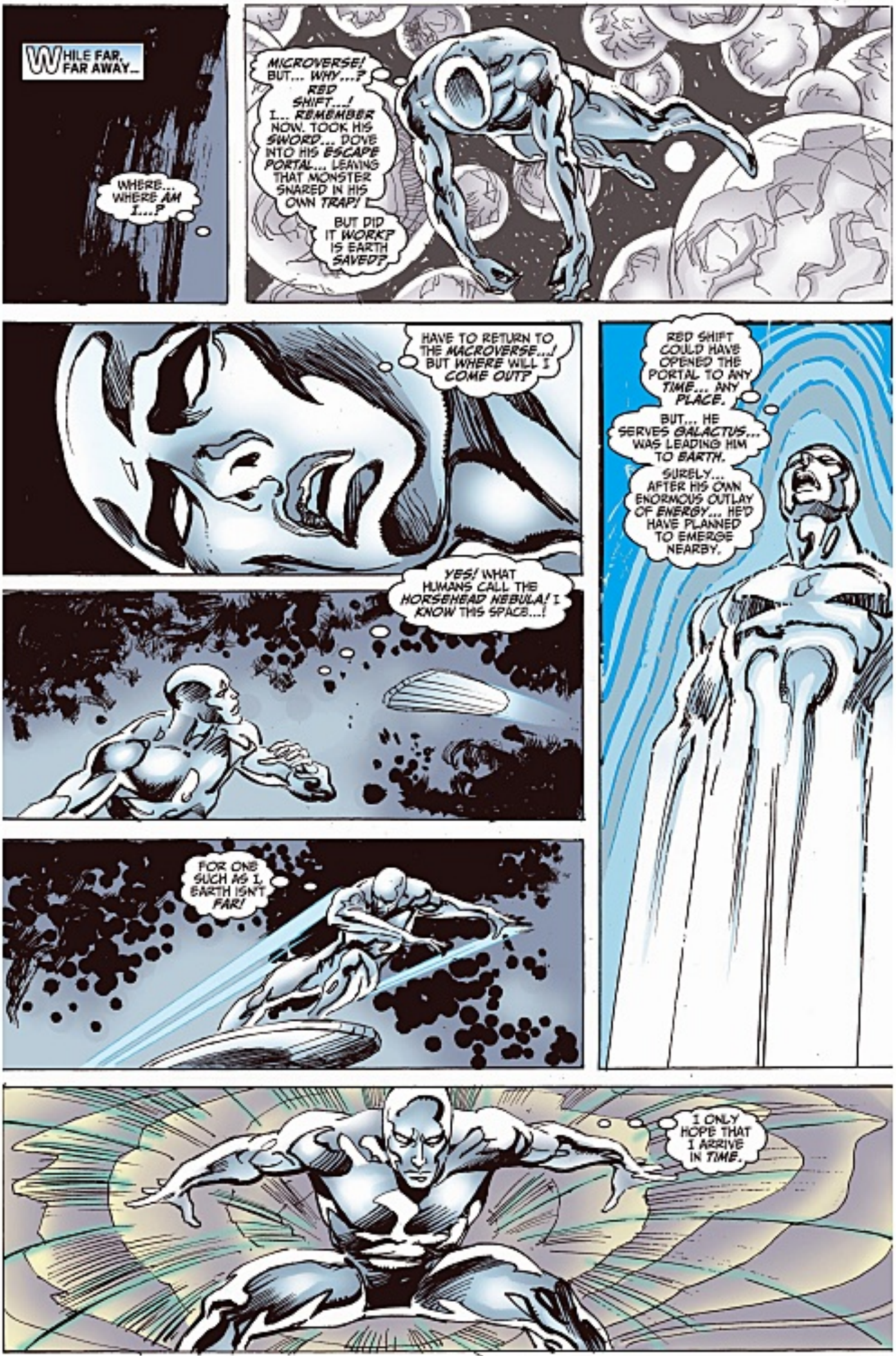

CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN! EARTH NEEDS MY PROTECTION AGAINST GALACTUS!
A FUTILE EFFORT, SURFER! I'M AS STRONG AS YOU. YOU'LL NEVER WREST THE SWORD FROM MY HAND.
YOU THINK NOT?!
HE'S RIGHT, AS FAR AS IT GOES. BUT I STILL HAVE ONE CHANCE... IF I CAN TIME IT RIGHT --
-- A FINAL BURST OF ENERGY THAT WILL SAVE... OR DESTROY ME.
THE BLAST HURLS RED SHIFT AWAY FROM THE STILL OPEN PORTAL... EVEN AS THE SURFER WRENCHES THE SWORD FROM HIS HAND.
THE HUMANS HAVE A SAYING... THAT AGE AND TREACHERY BEAT YOUTH AND SKILL... EVERY TIME!
AND I HAVE WIELDED THE POWER COSMIC FAR LONGER THAN ANY BEING... SAVE GALACTUS HIMSELF!
FOOL! YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE. REMEMBER THAT! THE FUTURE IS IMMUTABLE. IT'S JUST A MATTER... OF TIME...!


WITHOUT RED SHIFT'S ENERGIES TO SUSTAIN IT, THE PORTAL IS SHRINKING RAPIDLY...!
I MAY NOT MAKE IT THROUGH.
ONE CHANCE...
...TO COMPRESS MY BODY...
...TO ENTER THE MICROVERSE.
HE PLUMMETS PAST ATOMS SEEMINGLY GROWN THE SIZE OF PLANETS... THEN SOLAR SYSTEMS...


...AS HE CHASES THE TINY RIFT IN SPACE... ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL...


...WHICH SLAMS SHUT BEHIND HIM...
...LEAVING TOTAL DARKNESS IN HIS WAKE.

WHILE ON PIER 4...
ALICIA, DON'T SWEAT IT! YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU CAN!
TOGETHER, WE WERE ABLE TO ALERT THE PEOPLE WHO'LL BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING, BEN? OR... ANYONE?
NOTHIN' YET 'LICIA! DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S GOOD NEWS... OR BAD!
INSIDE AVENGERS MANSION, THE CONFEDERACY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES MEET...
...GALACTUS IS DEVOURING LIFE-FORCE NOW... AND WE'RE NEXT ON THE MENU?
I ADMIT I'M NEW AT THIS... BUT HOW CAN WE EVEN HOPE TO STOP HIM?
MAYBE THE SURFER WILL PREVAIL.
IF NOT, THE SITUATION IS DIRE, INDEED! WE'D BETTER PREPARE FOR THE WORST.
AND ELSWHERE...
...THIS THREAT FROM GALACTUS IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS...
GALACTUS? BAH!
LIKE THAT WOULD SAVE US!
AND HERE I WAS HOPING FOR A SLOW NEWS DAY!
...EARTH'S CITIZENS ARE URGED TO REMAIN INDOORS...


WHILE FAR, FAR AWAY...
WHERE... WHERE AM I...?
MICROVERSE! BUT... WHY...? RED SHIFT...! I... REMEMBER NOW. TOOK HIS SWORD... DOVE INTO HIS ESCAPE PORTAL... LEAVING THAT MONSTER SNARED IN HIS OWN TRAP!
BUT DID IT WORK? IS EARTH SAVED?
HAVE TO RETURN TO THE MACROVERSE...! BUT WHERE WILL I COME OUT?
YES! WHAT HUMANS CALL THE HORSEHEAD NEBULA! I KNOW THIS SPACE...!
FOR ONE SUCH AS I, EARTH ISN'T FAR!
RED SHIFT COULD HAVE OPENED THE PORTAL TO ANY TIME... ANY PLACE.
BUT... HE SERVES GALACTUS... WAS LEADING HIM TO EARTH.
SURELY... AFTER HIS OWN ENORMOUS OUTLAY OF ENERGY... HE'D HAVE PLANNED TO EMERGE NEARBY.
I ONLY HOPE THAT I ARRIVE IN TIME.

MANHATTAN... GLEAMING IN THE SUN -- ITS SKIES UNSHADOWED BY ANY PORTENT OF DOOM!
PERHAPS, IN RIDDING THIS UNIVERSE OF HIS HERALD, I WAS ABLE TO DEFLECT GALACTUS FROM HIS PATH --
NO! OH, NO! DESPITE MY BEST EFFORT, I HAVE FAILED!
AND THAT WHICH I MOST FEARED HAS COME TO PASS...
"...THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS HAS ARRIVED ON EARTH!"

I HUNGER.
NEXT ISSUE:
DENIAL!

MARVEL COMICS
GALACTUS
THE DEVOURER
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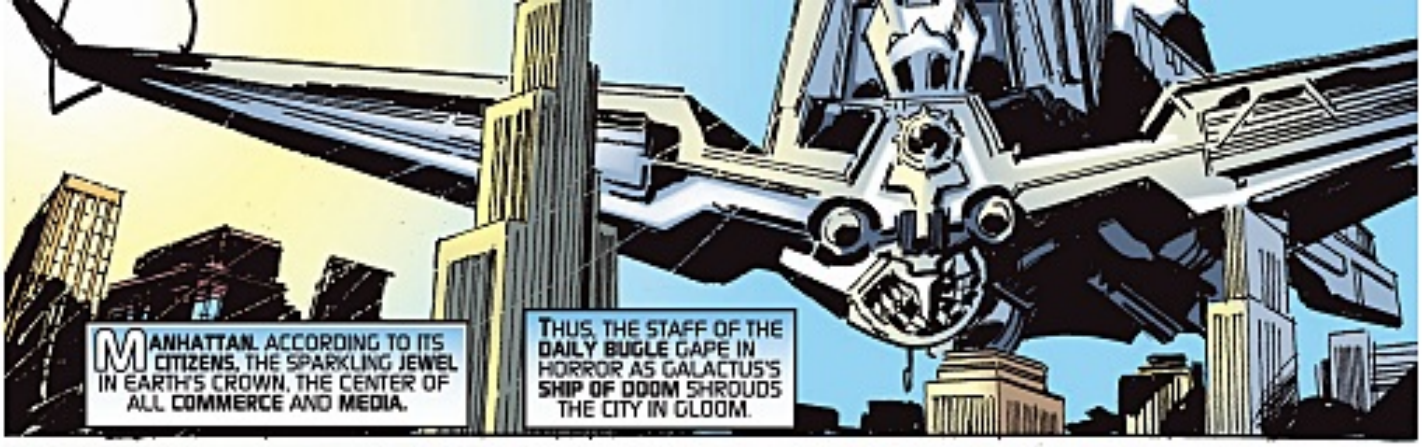

MANHATTAN. ACCORDING TO ITS CITIZENS, THE SPARKLING JEWEL IN EARTH'S CROWN, THE CENTER OF ALL COMMERCE AND MEDIA.
THUS, THE STAFF OF THE DAILY BUGLE GAPE IN HORROR AS GALACTUS'S SHIP OF DOOM SHROUDS THE CITY IN GLOOM.

THIS TIME WE'RE UP TO OUR NECKS IN CROCODILES, O'MALLY!
STORY OF THE CENTURY, JAMESON! HOPE WE LIVE TO REPORT IT!
THE CRAFT STRETCHES FROM HARLEM SOUTH TO SOHO, DWARFING ITS BUILDINGS..

I'LL, UH, PROCESS YOUR INSURANCE CLAIM WHEN I GET BACK TO THE OFFICE, MR. SEATON...
...IF I GET BACK!...!

...AND CONFOUNDING ITS CITIZENS...
WHEN THE SURFER SIGNED YOUR BOARD, NICK... TOO BAD HE DIDN'T MAKE IT FLY TOO, SO WE COULD GET OUTTA HERE!

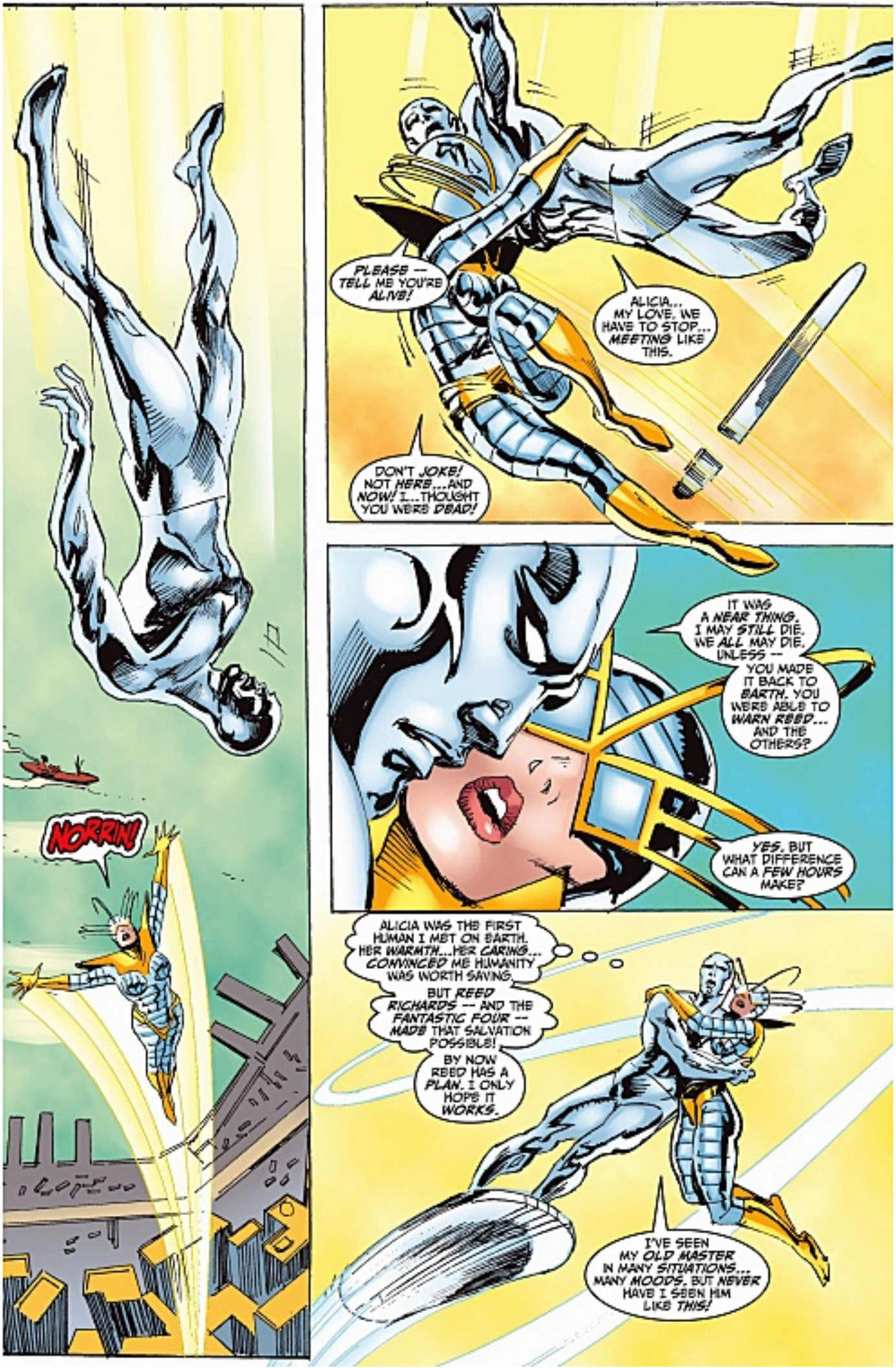
...EVEN THE HEROES KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
GALACTUS NOW CONSUMES LIFE-FORCE EXCLUSIVELY, ALICIA...?
SO RED SHIFT SAID, REED. IT ACTS ON HIM LIKE A DRUG...
...HE NEEDS NEW SOURCES CONSTANTLY.

WHILE I RACED HERE TO WARN YOU, THE SURFER FOUGHT RED SHIFT HOPING, BY DEFEATING THE HERALD, TO DIVERT HIS MASTER. NOW, I FEAR —
NO! LOOK! HE'S BACK!

ON THE SHIP'S SUMMIT STANDS GALACTUS, DEVOURER OF WORLDS.
TO HIM, THE WARP AND WOOF OF HUMAN SOCIETY -- ITS ARTS, ITS HISTORY, ITS SCIENCE AND COMMERCE -- MEAN NOTHING.
HIS FOCUS IS THE LIFE-FORCE ITSELF, WHICH SHEENS THE PLANET'S CRUST AND PROMISES A JOLT OF ECSTASY... AND TEMPORARY RESPITE FROM HIS ALL-CONSUMING HUNGER.
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
DENIAL
LOUISE SIMONSON STORY
JOHN BUSCEMA PENCILS
BILL SIENKIEWICZ INKS

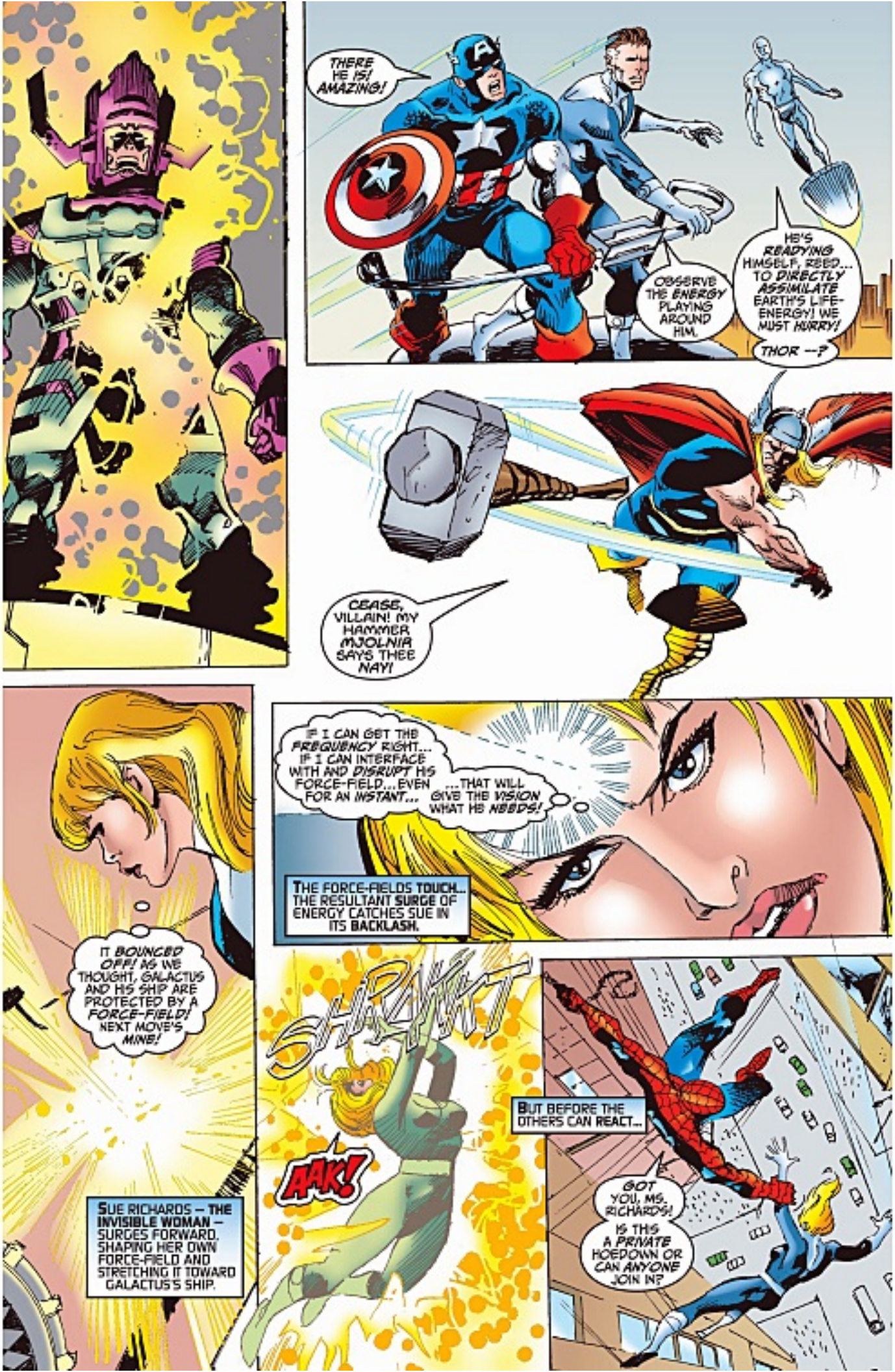
GALACTUS -- WHY HAVE YOU COME TO EARTH?
MY NEW HERALD -- RED SHIFT -- SET ME ON THIS PATH BEFORE YOU DESTROYED HIM.
STAY HERE, AND I WILL DESTROY YOU ALONG WITH THE DENIZENS OF THIS WORLD.
MASTER... YOU'RE ILL... AND RED SHIFT WAS A MONSTER! WHY DID YOU LET HIM LEAD YOU HERE...?
YOU WHO PROMISED TO SPARE EARTH FROM YOUR DEPREDATIONS...!
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
RS&COMICRAFT LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF
WHAT VALUE IS A PROMISE, NORRIN RADD...?
YOU PROMISED ME, IF I WOULD SPARE YOUR HOMEWORLD, YOU WOULD SERVE ME EVER MORE AS MY HERALD...
...WOULD FIND ME OTHER WORLDS TO ASSUAGE MY HUNGER.
HIS FACE IS HAGGARD... ANEMIC AND CADAVEROUS! AND HIS VOICE, WHICH ONCE COULD SHATTER WORLDS, IS LITTLE MORE THAN A RASPING WHISPER!

I GAVE YOU SKIN OF SILVER... AND POWER TO TRAVERSE THE STARS. BUT YOU BETRAYED ME...FOR EARTH!
THE RIGHT CHOICE... BUT ONE THAT HAUNTS ME STILL.
WHEN I LED YOU HERE...AS I HAD LED YOU TO SO MANY WORLDS BEFORE...I HAD NO MEMORY OF MY PAST.
BUT SOME QUALITY IN HUMANITY SPOKE TO ME...AWAKENED MY CONSCIENCE...
...MADE ME REALIZE THE DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF A SENTIENT WORLD WAS WRONG.
DESPITE YOUR PROMISE, YOU TOOK HUMANITY'S SIDE AGAINST ME.
TOGETHER WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR, YOU FORCED ME TO TURN AWAY FROM EARTH.
AND YET YOU FREED ME FROM MY SERVITUDE, MY OLD MASTER...AND RESTORED MY MEMORIES.
IN TIME, YOU FOUND DIVERSE HERALDS... AND DIFFERENT SUSTENANCE.
MASTER, I BEG YOU...TURN AWAY ONCE AGAIN! THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS!
NOT FOR ME, NORRIN RADD. NOT ANY LONGER!
NOW LEAVE ME! I HUNGER... AND MUST BE SATISFIED!


PLEASE -- TELL ME YOU'RE ALIVE!
ALICIA... MY LOVE. WE HAVE TO STOP... MEETING LIKE THIS.
DON'T JOKE! NOT HERE...AND NOW! I...THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
IT WAS A NEAR THING. I MAY STILL DIE. WE ALL MAY DIE. UNLESS --
YOU MADE IT BACK TO EARTH. YOU WERE ABLE TO WARN REED... AND THE OTHERS?
YES. BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN A FEW HOURS MAKE?
NORRIN!
ALICIA WAS THE FIRST HUMAN I MET ON EARTH. HER WARMTH...HER CARING... CONVINCED ME HUMANITY WAS WORTH SAVING.
BUT REED RICHARDS -- AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR -- MADE THAT SALVATION POSSIBLE!
BY NOW REED HAS A PLAN. I ONLY HOPE IT WORKS.
I'VE SEEN MY OLD MASTER IN MANY SITUATIONS... MANY MOODS. BUT NEVER HAVE I SEEN HIM LIKE THIS!

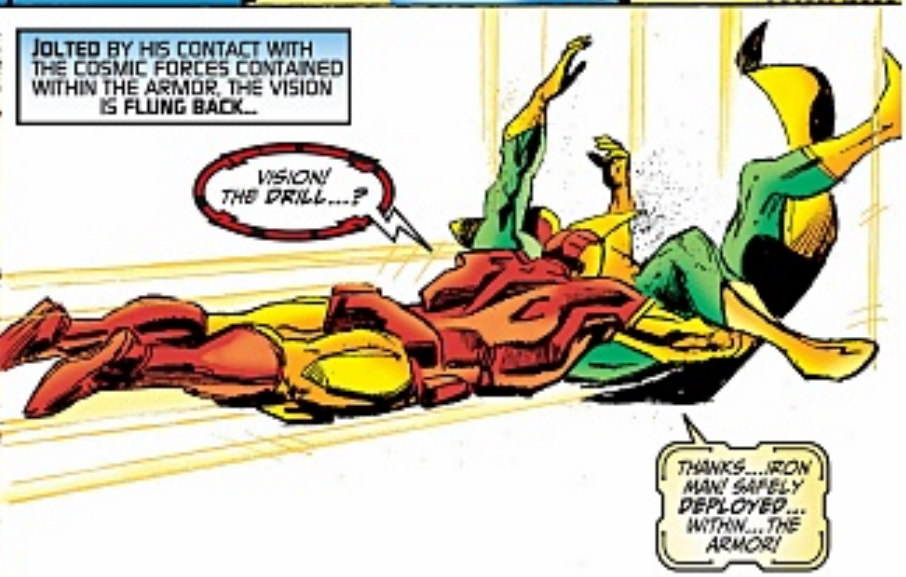
NEARBY...
IS IT TRUE THAT, ONCE, GALACTUS WAS DYING AND REED RICHARDS SAVED HIM, AND THEN A BATCH OF ALIENS PUT REED ON TRIAL?
TRUE ENOUGH, FIRESTAR.
THEN WHAT HAPPENED?
WHEN WE AVENGERS REACH PIER FOUR, YOU CAN ASK HIM.
DURING MY TRIAL... IN TRUTH AS MUCH A TRIAL OF GALACTUS... ETERNITY HIMSELF APPEARED AND REVEALED GALACTUS'S TRUE ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE.
HIS ROLE...?! WHAT WAS IT --?
I...NO LONGER KNOW. THE ANSWER WAS SO...COSMIC... THAT MORTAL MINDS COULDN'T CONTAIN THE CONCEPT.
BUT, AT THE TIME, THE JURY'S CONVICTION, ITS...COMPULSION, WAS SO STRONG, I WAS ABSOLVED OF ANY CRIME...AND RELEASED.
I HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE SIT ON OUR HANDS WHILE GALACTUS DEVOURS THE EARTH.
NO, WONDER MAN. NO MATTER WHAT HIS ROLE, WHEN THREATENED, WE HAVE THE RIGHT... THE DUTY... TO DEFEND OURSELVES.
AN' THANKS TO ALICIA... AN' TH' SURFER THERE... WE HAD TIME TA MAKE A PLAN.
GOOD! REED... WHAT IS YOUR STRATEGY?

WHILE IN MIDTOWN...
MEET YOU THERE, ALFIE...! I... UH...NEED MORE FILM!
AND I CAN DEAL WITH THIS MOB EFFECTIVELY AS SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT?! MEET US WHERE --? HEY, PARKER! BLAST IT ALL!
DON'T SWEAT IT, ALF. NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE, THE FIGHT WILL BE UP THERE!
...I ADAPTED A PHOTON-DRILL I'D BEEN WORKING ON...
...AN IMPLEMENT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BORE THROUGH GALACTUS'S ARMOR AND DISRUPT ITS ENERGY CONTROL PROPERTIES.
THE VISION WILL CARRY THE IMPLEMENT. BUT IT'S UP TO ALL OF US TO SEE HE GETS CLOSE ENOUGH TO DEPLOY IT.
IF WE SUCCEED, GALACTUS WILL BEGIN TO HEMORRHAGE ENERGY.
JUST LIKE LETTING AIR OUT OF A TIRE.
WE ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO.
GALACTUS ISN'T WELL. HIS PERSONAL ENERGY RESERVES ARE LOW.
I PRAY THE ADDITIONAL POWER LOSS WILL WEAKEN HIM ENOUGH THAT WE CAN DEFEAT HIM.


THERE HE IS! AMAZING!
OBSERVE THE ENERGY PLAYING AROUND HIM.
HE'S READYING HIMSELF, REED... TO DIRECTLY ASSIMILATE EARTH'S LIFE-ENERGY! WE MUST HURRY!
THOR --?
CEASE, VILLAIN! MY HAMMER MJOLNIR SAYS THEE NAY!
IF I CAN GET THE FREQUENCY RIGHT... IF I CAN INTERFACE WITH AND DISRUPT HIS FORCE-FIELD... EVEN FOR AN INSTANT...
...THAT WILL GIVE THE VISION WHAT HE NEEDS!
THE FORCE-FIELDS TOUCH... THE RESULTANT SURGE OF ENERGY CATCHES SUE IN ITS BACKLASH.
IT BOUNCED OFF! AS WE THOUGHT, GALACTUS AND HIS SHIP ARE PROTECTED BY A FORCE-FIELD! NEXT MOVE'S MINE!
SUE RICHARDS -- THE INVISIBLE WOMAN -- SURGES FORWARD, SHAPING HER OWN FORCE-FIELD AND STRETCHING IT TOWARD GALACTUS'S SHIP.
SHRAFT
AAK!
BUT BEFORE THE OTHERS CAN REACT...
GOT YOU, MS. RICHARDS!
IS THIS A PRIVATE HOEDOWN OR CAN ANYONE JOIN IN?

WE'RE IN!
YOU GOT THE COSMIC MUNCHIES, GALACTUS, FIND ANOTHER HOT DOG STAND...!
YOU OUGHTA KNOW BY NOW... US EARTH-DOGS BITE BACK!
THE TORCH'S DISTRACTION SEEMS TO BE WORKING. THE VISION'S PHASING INSIDE --

ZZAKK


JOLTED BY HIS CONTACT WITH THE COSMIC FORCES CONTAINED WITHIN THE ARMOR, THE VISION IS FLUNG BACK...
VISION! THE DRILL...?
THANKS...IRON MAN! SAFELY DEPLOYED... WITHIN... THE ARMOR!

NOTHING'S HAPPENING, REED. GALACTUS SEEMS TOTALLY UNFAZED. CAN YOUR DRILL HAVE MALFUNCTIONED...?
GIVE IT TIME. WE SHOULD SEE IT BEGIN TO WORK... NOW!

A RUPTURE APPEARS IN GALACTUS'S ARMOR...A GLOWING HOLE THE SIZE OF A PIN-HEAD...
...THAT GROWS LARGER AS UNCONTROLLED COSMIC ENERGY ROILS FROM THE BREACH...

MY TURN NOW! USE MY CHAOS POWER TO DIRECT THE ENERGY UPWARD... AND AWAY FROM EARTH!
GIVE THE OTHERS TIME TO MOVE IN!
C'MON! LET'S HIT OLE BUCKET HEAD WITH EVERYTHING WE GOT! DON'T GIVE 'IM TIME TA REGROUP!
TOO MUCH... ENERGY! CAN'T CHANNEL IT... LOSING CONTROL.
GREAT IS YOUR POWER, SCARLET WITCH, BUT YOU WERE NOT CREATED TO WIELD ENERGIES SUCH AS THESE!
TO DO SO IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE SILVER SURFER!

NO!
THE ENERGY LEAK STOPS ABRUPTLY. WITH A GESTURE, GALACTUS GATHERS THE COSMIC ENERGY INTO A WRITHING, ELECTRICAL MASS...
...AND HURLS IT AT EARTH'S HEROES. THE BLAST HITS THE SURFER LIKE A TIDAL WAVE.
ENTANGLED BY UNSEEN FORCES, HE STRUGGLES AS THE ENERGY CRESTS OVER HIM...AND BEYOND.
HE HEARS ALICIA'S CRY AS SHE DIVES TO CATCH HIM. THEN THE ENERGY STRIKES HER, TOO, AND THEN WASHES PAST HER TOWARD THE OTHERS.
AARGHH!
BEHIND ME, REED! MY ENERGY SHIELD SHOULD REFLECT EVEN THAT!
DON'T SWEAT IT, CAP. SUSIE'S BACK IN THE GAME... PROTECTIN' US IN A FORCE BUBBLE!
AT LEAST THOSE OF US SHE CAN REACH!
INVULNERABILITY SAVES SOME.
TEAMWORK SAVES THE OTHERS.
AS THE WAVE SWEEPS ACROSS THE CITY...WINDOWS IMPLODE, CARS OVERTURN, LAMP-POSTS TOPPLE.

FINALLY, THE ENERGY WAVE BEGINS TO DISSIPATE.
IN THE AFTERMATH OF CHAOS, HUMAN FIGURES STUMBLE FROM THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE DEVASTATION ZONE...
WHATEVER THEY WERE TRYIN', LOOKS LIKE IT DIDN'T WORK.
UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR, PAL O' MINE! HOW'S THE SURFER?
ALIVE!
SO'S ALICIA. THIS MUST BE SOME ARMOR!
HARD TO BELIEVE ANYONE SURVIVED THAT BLAST FROM UP CLOSE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I... WAS CLOSEST! I ESPECIALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED.
NORRIN! GALACTUS IS SINKING OUT OF SIGHT...INTO HIS SHIP!
MAYBE WE WEAKENED HIM, AFTER ALL. CAN HE BE LEAVING?

OVERHEAD, THE SHIP'S MACHINERIES BEGIN TO CRACKLE AND TENDRILS OF ENERGY CREEP OMINOUSLY OUTWARD.
GALACTUS WAS WEAKENED... THOUGH NOT FATALLY. HE'S CHANGED TACTICS... AND ENGAGED HIS MACHINERIES OF DEATH.
RATHER THAN ABSORBING HUMANITY'S LIFE ENERGY DIRECTLY...
...HE'LL CONSERVE HIS STRENGTH... ALLOWING HIS EQUIPMENT TO DIGEST AND FUNNEL THE ENERGY TO HIM.
GUESS HE'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE MORE CONVINCING. GOT ANY GIZMOS, REED, THAT'LL TAKE OUT THE SHIP?
A FEW WE CAN TRY, BUT DEPLOYING THEM WILL TAKE TIME. WE CAN FIGHT HIM... MAYBE EVENTUALLY DRIVE HIM OFF --
-- BUT IN THE MEANTIME, HE'LL BEGIN TO DEVASTATE YOUR WORLD.
WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM EARLIER, IT WAS AS IF HE COULDN'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO LISTEN TO MY PLEAS.
IN HIS FACE WAS NONE OF HIS USUAL IMPLACABLE COMPASSION, ONLY DESPERATION. AND YET...
TWICE HE COULD HAVE SLAIN ME...AND DIDN'T. I THINK...I'M STILL IMPORTANT TO HIM. HE WANTS ME TO LIVE.
IF I CAN GET CLOSE TO HIM, MAYBE I CAN REACH HIM...EVEN THROUGH HIS MADNESS...
...AND CONVINCE HIM TO TURN ASIDE.
WHAT DO YOU NEED US TO DO?

I COUNT FIVE MAJOR ENERGY SIPHONS. IS THERE A FORCE-FIELD, SIS?
NOT NOW! IT SEEMS HIS REMAINING ENERGIES ARE DIRECTED OUTWARD, NOW.
WE'LL BREAK UP INTO TEAMS... TARGET THE SIPHONS SPECIFICALLY.
THINK THAT'LL THROW A SPOKE IN HIS WHEELS, STRETCH?
I DOUBT WE CAN DESTROY ALL OF THEM IN THE TIME AVAILABLE. BUT WE CAN DELAY HIS DEVASTATION...
...AND GIVE THE SURFER TIME TO GET THROUGH TO GALACTUS.
AT THE LEAST SHALL WE BUY EARTH'S REMAINING HEROES TIME TO JOIN FORCES AND MOUNT A MORE COMPLETE DEFENSE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TEAM ONE, IRON MAN!
YOU'D THINK A COMBINATION OF PLASMA AND PARTICLE BEAMS WOULD DO MORE THAN SCORE THE METAL...
...IF THAT'S EVEN WHAT THIS SHIP IS MADE OF!
I GUESS IF YOU CREATE A MACHINE TO BREAK DOWN THE ENERGIES OF ENTIRE PLANETS, TORCH...
...IT HAD BETTER BE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE SOME MAJOR PUNISHMENT!

CAN THEY SAVE US, ALF?
IF ANYONE CAN!
THE MICROWAVES CONTROLLED BY FIRESTAR ARE POWERFUL...
IT ISN'T STOPPING!
THEN WE MUST DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS! GIVEN TIME, WE SHALL PREVAIL!
AS ARE THE ELDRITCH ENERGIES FOCUSED BY THE NORSE GOD THOR THROUGH HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER MJOLNIR. AND YET...
INTERESTING IDEA OF REED'S, CAP -- USING YOUR ENERGY SHIELD TO ABSORB THE ENERGY POURING FROM THE SHIP...
...AND MY CHAOS POWER TO HELP REFLECT IT BACK!
BUT CAN IT...WILL IT... DESTROY THE SIPHON?!
THEY TRY TO DISTRACT GALACTUS'S ATTENTION FROM ME WITH CHATTER...AS WELL AS THEIR PHYSICAL ATTACK.
IN SOME WAYS THEY REMAIN SUCH INNOCENTS...
BAWHAMM
DIRECT HIT!
WE DON'T HAVE TOTAL DESTRUCTION YET...BUT IT'S A START!

WHADDYA SAY, ROCKY? FINESSE OR BRUTE FORCE?
ALL I WANT IS TA SAY THEM MAGIC WORDS!
GOOD LUCK, BUDDY! YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT!
THEY'RE NOTHING TO GALACTUS...FLEAS ON THE SKIN OF HIS SHIP. HE COULD CRUSH THEM IF HE CHOSE...
...BUT, IN HIS EYES, TO DO SO WOULD LEND THEM MORE IMPORTANCE THAN THEY WARRANT.
A MISTAKE! I KNOW THESE HUMANS... AND GALACTUS WILL FIND THAT EVEN A FLEA CAN BITE...!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
NOT A DENT! MY TURN! I CHOOSE FINESSE!
I'M JUST GETTING STARTED! HEY -- THAT WEB-GOOP AIN'T FINESSIN' NUTHIN'!
IT'S CLOGGING THE SIPHON, BEN!
FROM CAP AND THE SCARLET WITCH'S MINOR VICTORY, I'M BETTING THAT WHAT THE SHIP'S VULNERABLE TO IS A CONCENTRATED DOSE OF ITS OWN ENERGIES!
BATHOOMB

TWO SIPHONS DAMAGED, ANYWAY, WONDER MAN. ALL WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IS WARP THE HOUSING!
NORRIN WILL HAVE PHASED INTO GALACTUS'S SHIP BY NOW.
HE'S OUR BEST HOPE... AND MAY WELL SAVE US. BUT AT WHAT COST...?
THE AURA SURROUNDING GALACTUS IS FADED...WRONG. HE'S WEAKENED... WORSE...!
MASTER, YOU'RE ILL! I FEAR YOU MAY BE DYING!
YOU'VE COME TO ME, NORRIN RADD...FINALLY... AS I KNEW YOU MUST!

I AM ILL AND WEAK... THAT IS TRUE.
BUT STRONG ENOUGH STILL THAT, WITH THE MEREST GESTURE, I CAN IMMOBILIZE YOU!
STRONG ENOUGH TO ABSORB THE LIFE FORCE OF THESE PETTY EARTHLINGS...NO MATTER HOW FRANTICALLY THEY STRUGGLE TO EVADE ME.
TO REGAIN MY STRENGTH...BY DEVOURING THEIRS.
BUT... WHY...? THERE WAS A TIME YOU FED ON THE ENERGY OF WORLDS!
WHY TURN TO SOMETHING SO...INSIGNIFICANT? SO...LACKING IN THE SUSTENANCE YOU TRULY NEED?
WHEN THE UNIVERSE WAS YOUNG, IT IS TRUE I FED ON RAW INANIMATE WORLDS.
THEN LIFE APPEARED... AND ITS VITAL ENERGY, THOUGH A MERE BY-PRODUCT OF MY SUBLIMATION OF THE PLANETS, ADDED A SPECIAL SAVOR TO MY REPAST.
RECENTLY, MY CRAVING FOR LIVING WORLDS HAS GROWN... TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHER WANTS.
RED SHIFT CAME TO ME... PROMISED ME A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF...ALL THIS...IN RETURN FOR POWER! NOW HE IS GONE!

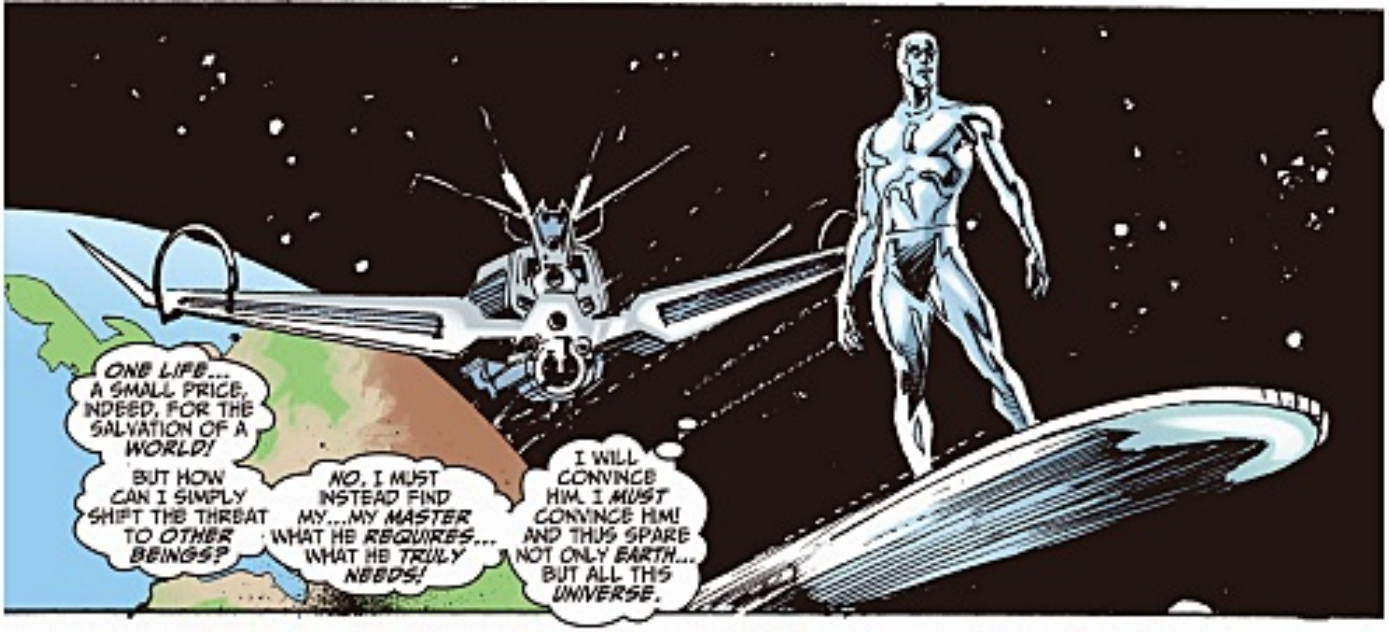
SEVERAL SIPHONS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED, BUT THE OTHERS ARE PUMPING OUT EXTRA ENERGY!
BIRDS ARE FALLING FROM THE SKY! TREES... WITHER TO DUST!
THE COSMIC ENERGY SURROUNDS US...THREATENS US AS SURELY AS IT DOES THE OTHER DENIZENS OF THIS PLANET!
I FEAR, THIS TIME, WE'VE FOUGHT A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST A MAD GOD. I ONLY HOPE THE SURFER WILL HAVE BETTER LUCK INSIDE.

YOU NOW DEVOUR LIFE ENERGY ALONE... AND LEAVE BARREN WORLDS BEHIND. AND YOU HUNGER CONSTANTLY!
WHY DO THIS -- WHEN THE NUTRIENTS YOU NEED ARE BOUND WITHIN A WORLD'S MOLTEN CORE?
LIFE-ENERGY ALONE IS EMPTY... IT LACKS SUBSTANCE. YOU MAY CRAVE IT...BUT IT IS DESTROYING YOU!

MY OLDEST, DEAREST HERALD -- I GAVE YOU THE STARS, YET YOU ABANDONED ME!
WHAT DO YOU CARE WHAT I DEVOUR...HOW I LIVE OR DIE...EXCEPT TO SAVE THESE HUMANS, AS YOU DID BEFORE?
WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE NOW, BUT TO TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO GALACTUS BY RIGHT?
I HAVE NO HERALD!

GALACTUS IS OFFERING ME A TERRIBLE CHOICE -- RETURN TO SERVITUDE... OR SEE HIM DESTROY THIS WORLD.
IF I JOIN GALACTUS, I LOSE EVERYTHING -- FREEDOM, JOY, ALICIA, MY TENUOUS AND HARD-WON HAPPINESS.
HE OFFERS ME NOTHING BUT SLAVERY... AND EARTH'S PRESERVATION!
STOP! TURN AWAY FROM THE EARTH, AS YOU DID FROM MY HOMEWORLD!
CEASE YOUR DEVASTATION, AND I WILL BE YOUR HERALD ONCE AGAIN.
IF YOU RETURN AS MY HERALD, NORRIN RADD, YOU WILL LEAD ME... NOT AS YOU CHOOSE, BUT AS I DESIRE.
YOU WILL RETAIN YOUR MEMORIES...AND FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
KNOW THAT THE COST OF SERVING ME WILL BE YOUR VERY SOUL.
I ACCEPT YOUR STIPULATIONS. WHAT CHOICE HAVE I?
THE SIPHONS HAVE CEASED THEIR OUTPUT... HAVE GROWN SILENT!
THE SURFER DID IT!
CONVINCED GALACTUS TO TURN ASIDE!
BUT HOW --?

MY ARMOR'S FADING. I'M FREE, NOW. ONCE AGAIN IT'S UNDER MY CONTROL...
THE DANGER TO EARTH IS TRULY OVER.
AND WITH MY EYES RESTORED TO BLINDNESS... I CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY WITH MY HEART.
AND I FEAR...FOR NORRIN...THE DANGER IS JUST BEGINNING.
GOOD-BYE, MY FRIENDS.
NO NEED TO LOOK SO TRAGIC, REMEMBER... I'LL STILL... HAVE THE STARS.
AND WHAT'S ONE INSIGNIFICANT LIFE...COMPARED TO ALL OF THIS?
BEN... KEEP HER SAFE.
YOU KNOW I WILL. I... PROMISE.


ONE LIFE... A SMALL PRICE, INDEED, FOR THE SALVATION OF A WORLD!
BUT HOW CAN I SIMPLY SHIFT THE THREAT TO OTHER BEINGS?
NO, I MUST INSTEAD FIND MY...MY MASTER WHAT HE REQUIRES... WHAT HE TRULY NEEDS!
I WILL CONVINCE HIM. I MUST CONVINCE HIM! AND THUS SPARE NOT ONLY EARTH... BUT ALL THIS UNIVERSE.

FINALLY... EVERYTHING IS AS IT MUST BE!
I HUNGER, NOBLE HERALD...! YOU KNOW WHAT I REQUIRE!
HURRY...!
NEXT TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
AND THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF
MANTIS!

MARVEL COMICS
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THE DEVOURER
#4
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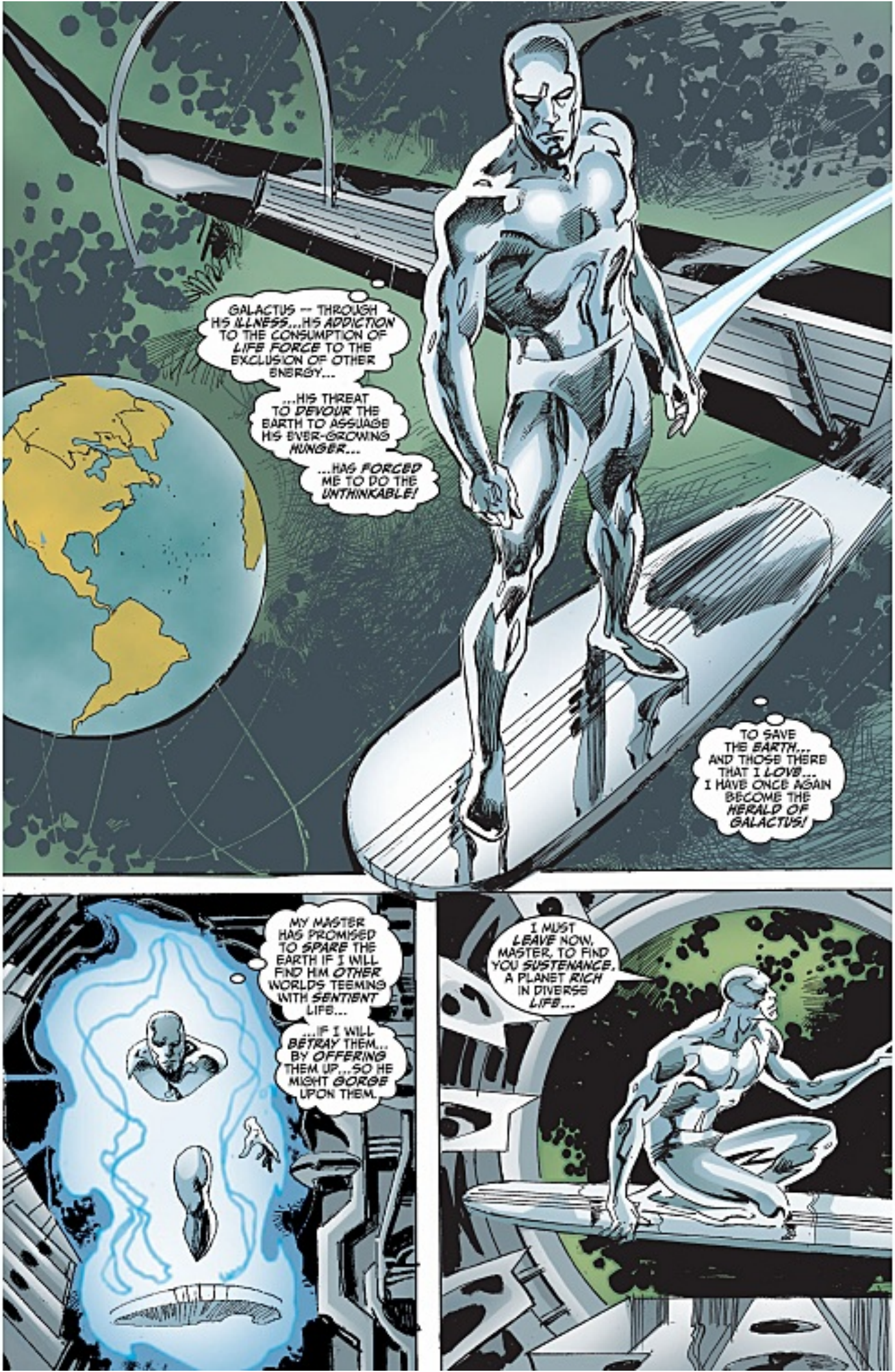
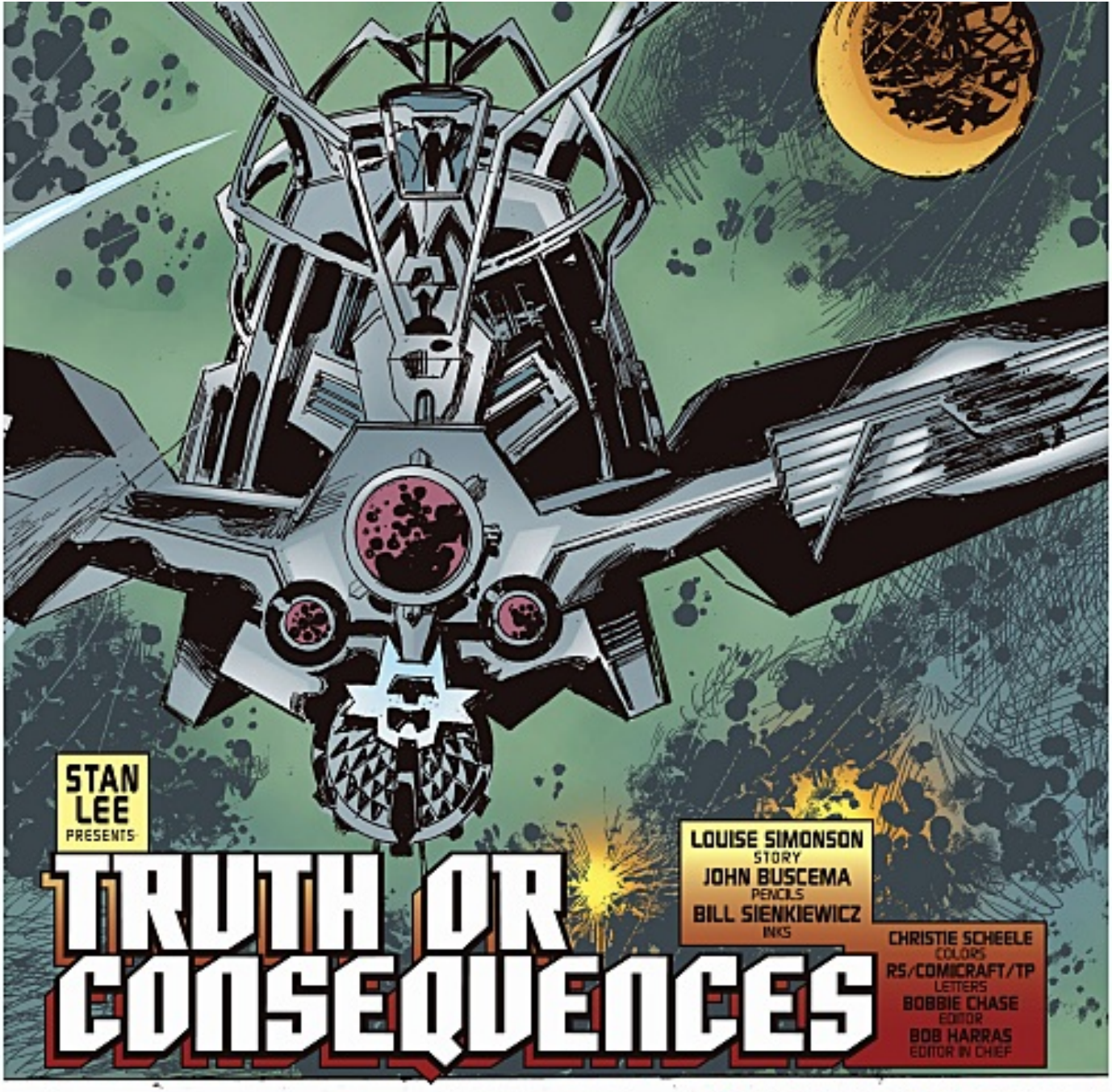
EARTH'S MOST DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST GALACTUS, THE DEVOURER OF WORLDS, IS OVER..*
...A BATTLE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST, BUT FOR THE INTERVENTION AND ULTIMATE SACRIFICE OF THE BEING KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE AS THE SILVER SURFER.
NOW EARTH'S MOST POWERFUL HEROES GAZE HEAVENWARD, HOPING FOR A FINAL GLIMPSE OF THE COSMIC HERO WHO, ONCE AGAIN, SAVED THEIR WORLD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE SILVER SURFER'S ONCE AGAIN GALACTUS'S HERALD!
AT LEAST HE WON'T LEAD GALACTUS HERE. EARTH'S SAFE... AT LEAST FROM GALACTUS.
*SEE LAST ISSUE!
BUT AT WHAT COST...?
FOR THE SURFER, ALICIA...?
FOR ALL OF US.
WITHOUT MY GOGGLES, MY EYES WERE BLIND, BUT MY HEART FINALLY SAW THINGS CLEARLY.
THIS MEANS DISASTER! WHY DON'T YOU SEE IT TOO? WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
ALL THE TIMES HE SAVED ME... SAVED US ALL. I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS.
ALICIA... THEY'RE GONE. HE'S GONE.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!


GALACTUS -- THROUGH HIS ILLNESS...HIS ADDICTION TO THE CONSUMPTION OF LIFE FORCE TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER ENERGY...
...HIS THREAT TO DEVOUR THE EARTH TO ASSUAGE HIS EVER-GROWING HUNGER...
...HAS FORCED ME TO DO THE UNTHINKABLE!
TO SAVE THE EARTH... AND THOSE THERE THAT I LOVE... I HAVE ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE HERALD OF GALACTUS!
MY MASTER HAS PROMISED TO SPARE THE EARTH IF I WILL FIND HIM OTHER WORLDS TEEMING WITH SENTIENT LIFE...
...IF I WILL BETRAY THEM... BY OFFERING THEM UP...SO HE MIGHT GORGE UPON THEM.
I MUST LEAVE NOW, MASTER. TO FIND YOU SUSTENANCE. A PLANET RICH IN DIVERSE LIFE...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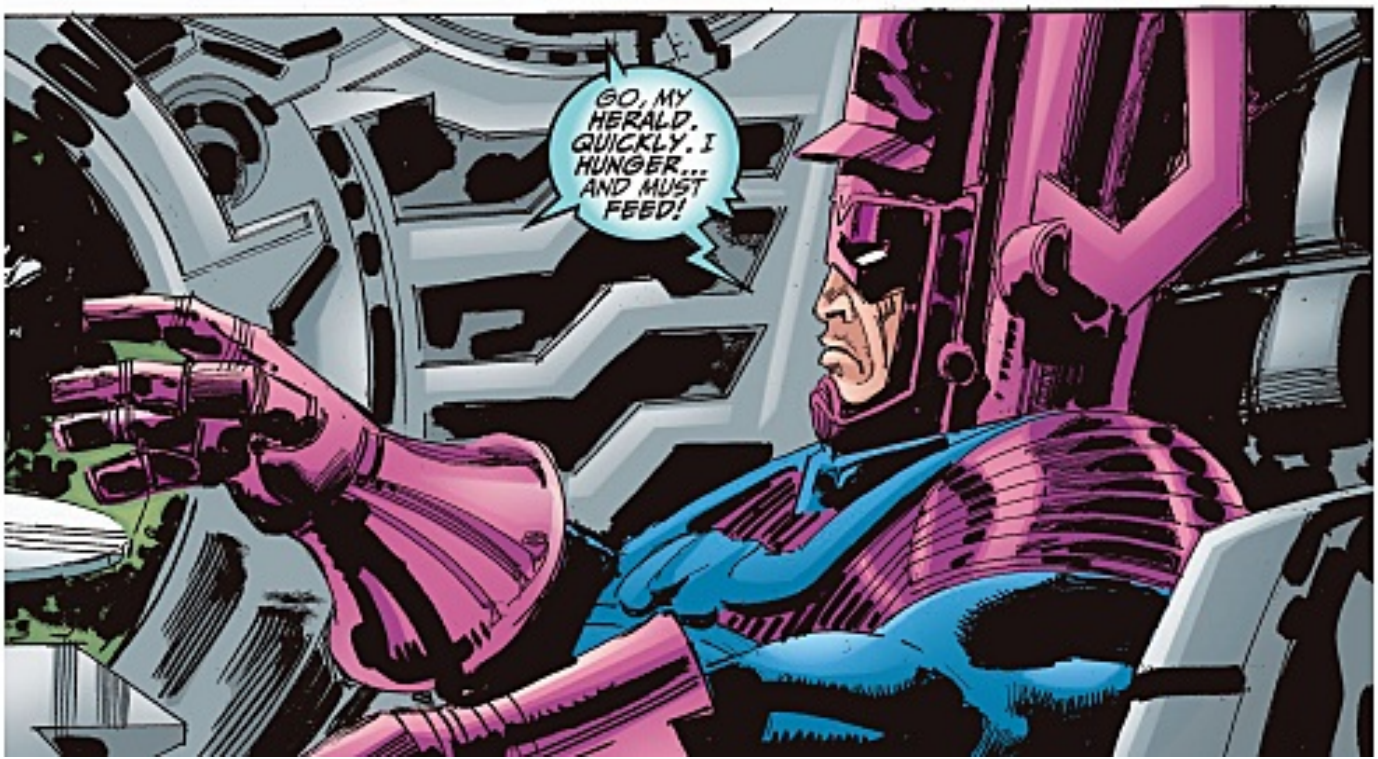
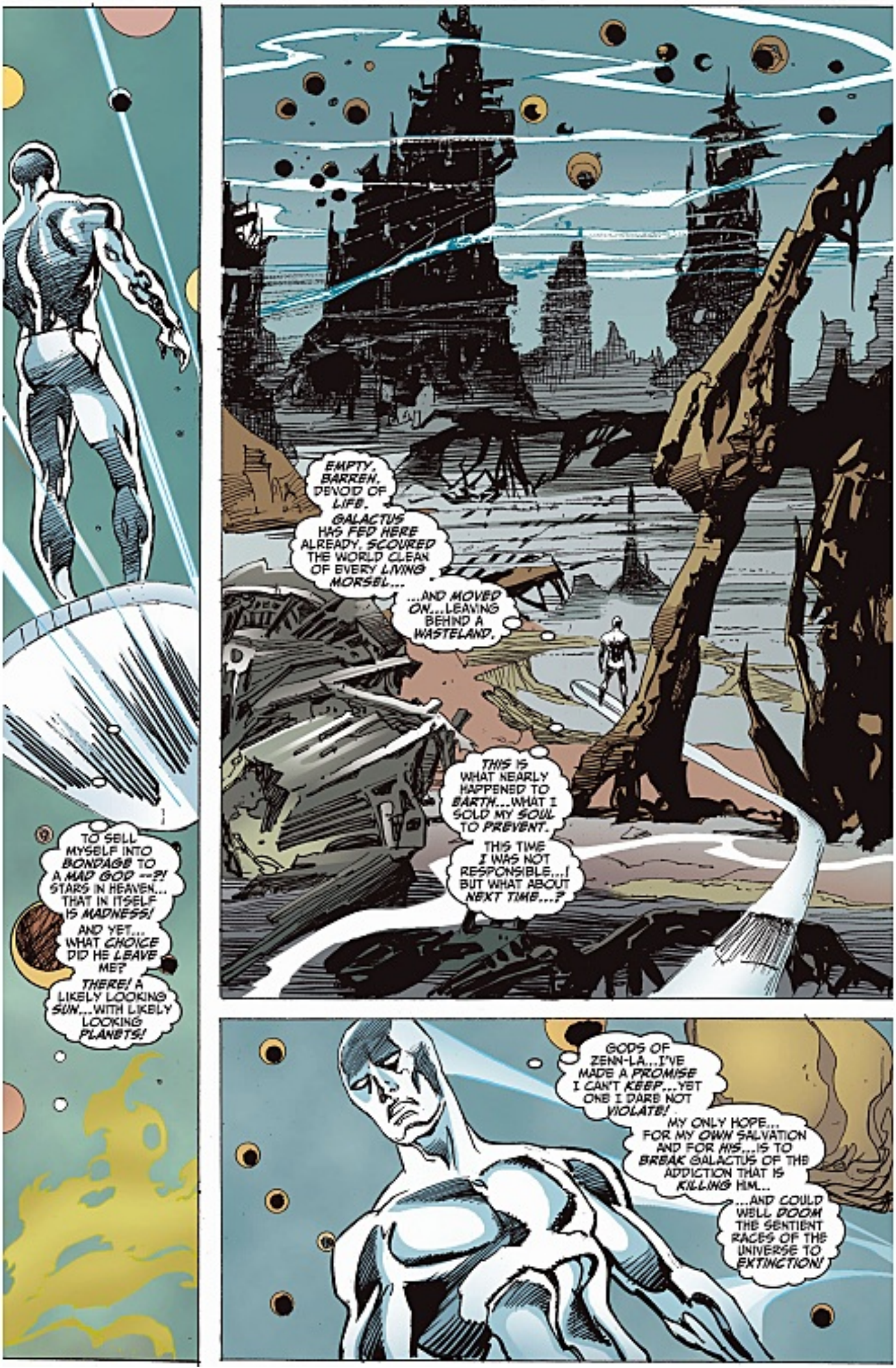
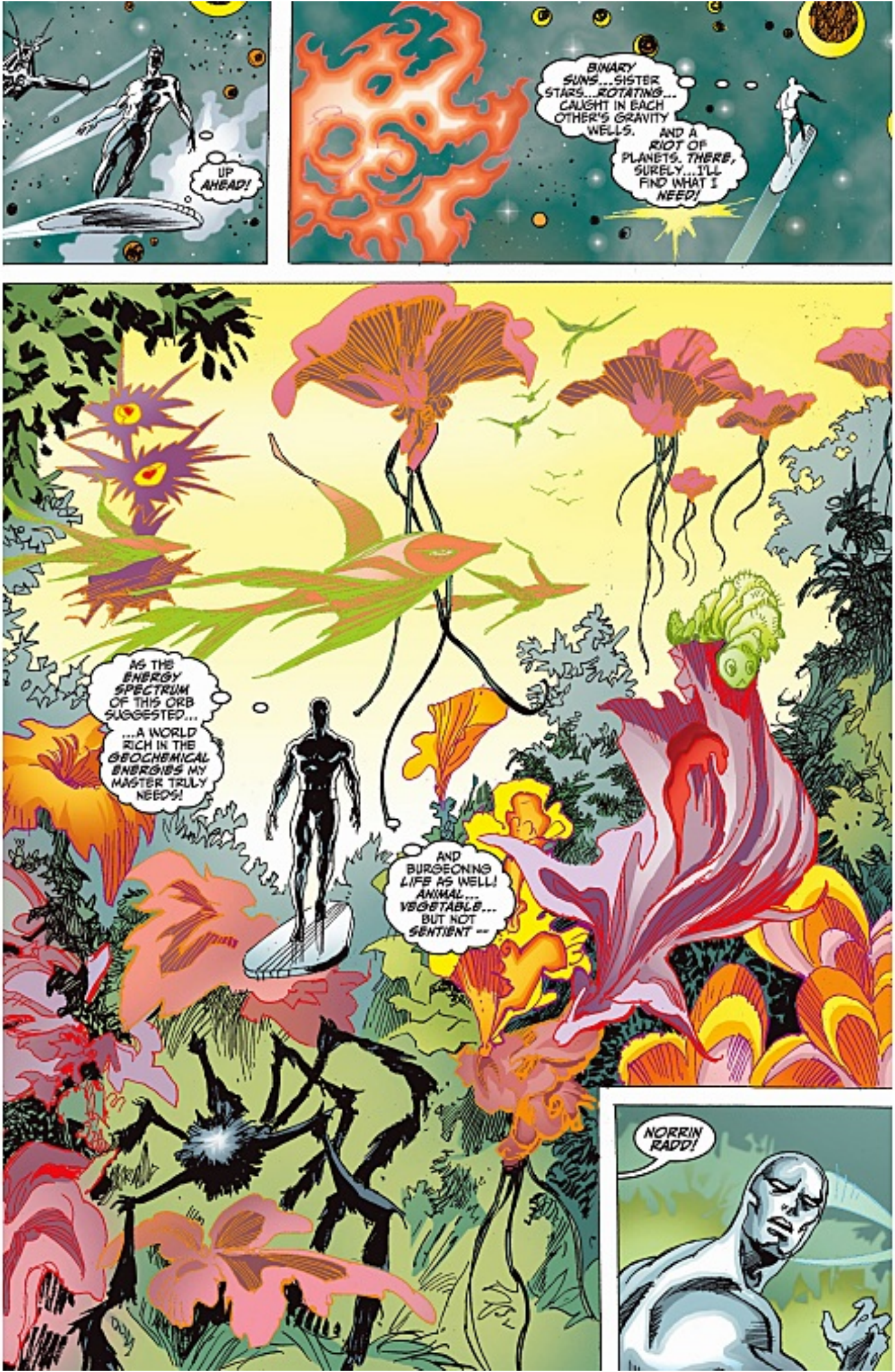
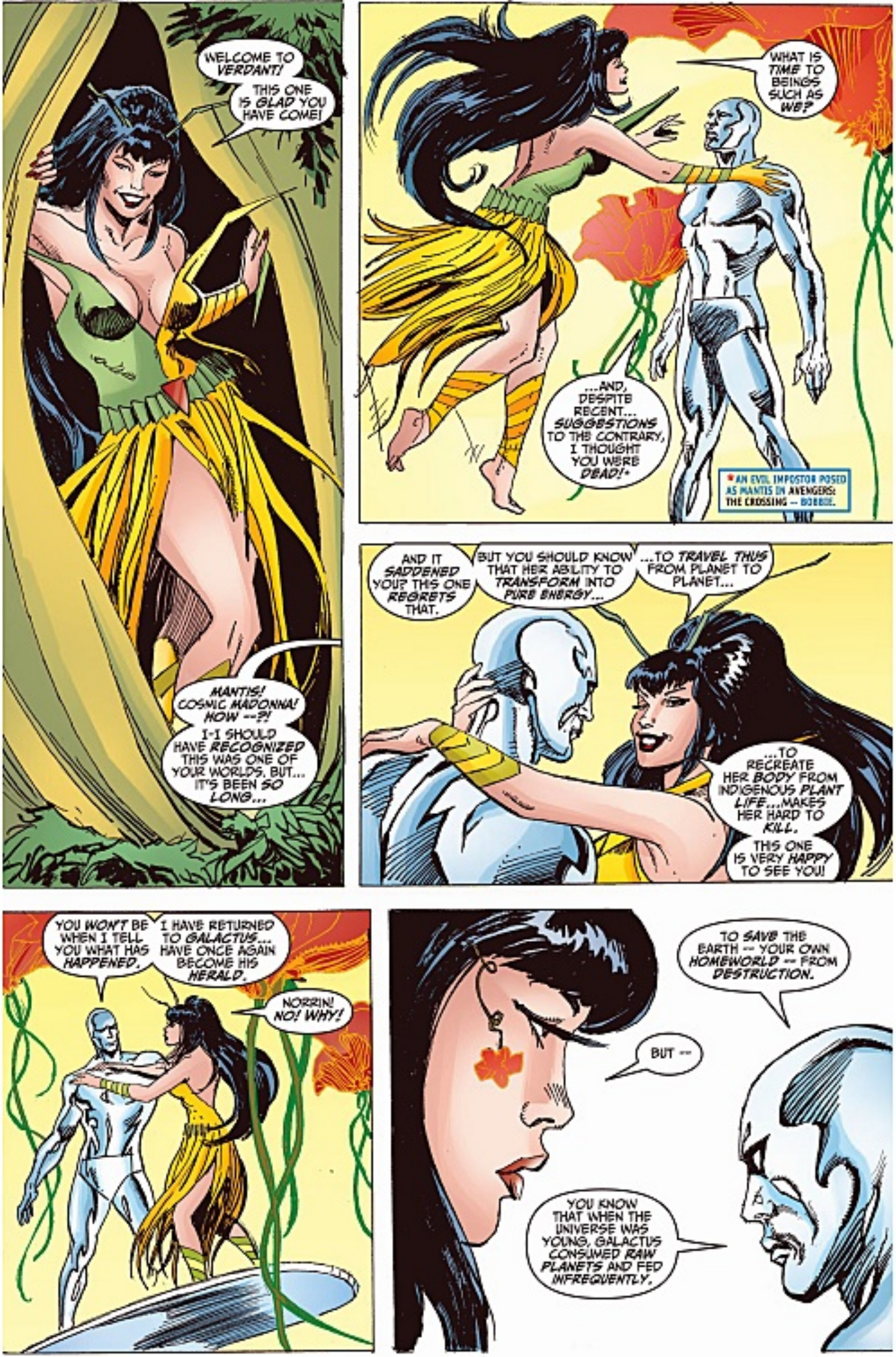
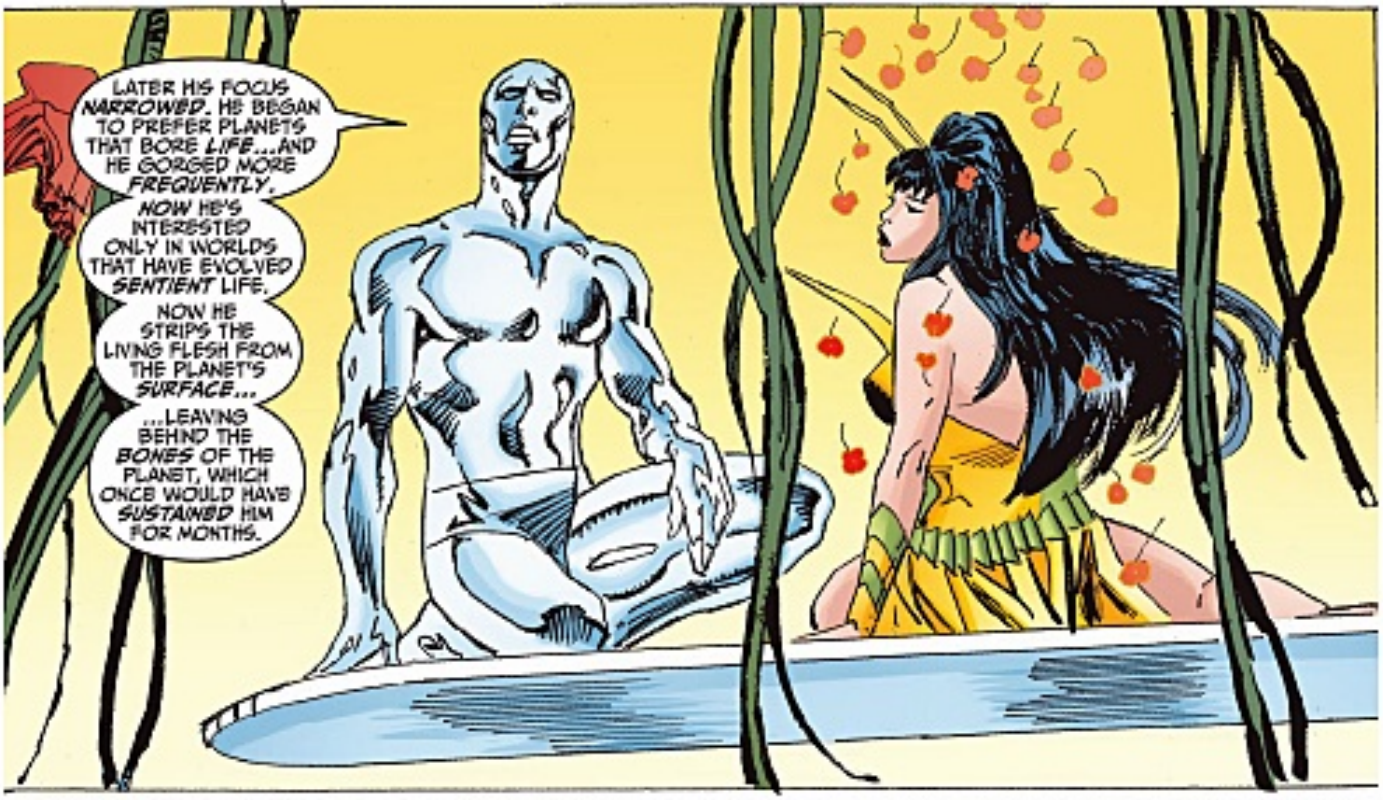

GO, MY HERALD. QUICKLY. I HUNGER... AND MUST FEED!


TO SELL MYSELF INTO BONDAGE TO A MAD GOD --?! STARS IN HEAVEN... THAT IN ITSELF IS MADNESS!
AND YET... WHAT CHOICE DID HE LEAVE ME?
THERE! A LIKELY LOOKING SUN...WITH LIKELY LOOKING PLANETS!
EMPTY. BARREN. DEVOID OF LIFE.
GALACTUS HAS FED HERE ALREADY, SCOURED THE WORLD CLEAN OF EVERY LIVING MORSEL...
...AND MOVED ON...LEAVING BEHIND A WASTELAND.
THIS IS WHAT NEARLY HAPPENED TO EARTH...WHAT I SOLD MY SOUL TO PREVENT.
THIS TIME I WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE...! BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME...?
GODS OF ZENN-LA...I'VE MADE A PROMISE I CAN'T KEEP...YET ONE I DARE NOT VIOLATE!
MY ONLY HOPE... FOR MY OWN SALVATION AND FOR HIS...IS TO BREAK GALACTUS OF THE ADDICTION THAT IS KILLING HIM...
...AND COULD WELL DOOM THE SENTIENT RACES OF THE UNIVERSE TO EXTINCTION!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PIER FOUR HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMILY OF HEROES KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
BLAST AWAY FULL FORCE! I WANT TO TEST YOUR POWER RESERVES.
WELL?
AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE ARMOR IS TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
IN ALL OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'S SUBJECT TO YOUR WILL?
ACCORDING TO THE ROBOT CYPHYRR WHO CREATED IT. *
I CAN JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE.
AND THE GOGGLES SHOW ME GALACTUS'S ENERGY TRAIL... LIKE A HIGHWAY ACROSS THE HEAVENS.
BUT CAN I FOLLOW?
*IN SILVER SURFER #143 -- BOBBIE.
THE NANO-TECHNOLOGY THAT GOVERNS YOUR ARMOR CAN CALCULATE A WARP...AND ACCESS THE POWER TO DRIVE IT.
APPARENTLY, YOU HAVE BUT TO THINK IT...AND IT WILL BE SO.
LIKE DOROTHY AND THE RED SHOES?
IT MAY TAKE A WHILE TO REBUILD ENERGY BETWEEN JUMPS...
HOW LONG?
DON'T MATTER, BABY, 'CAUSE YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE.
THE SURFER WANTS YOU STAYIN' HERE, ALICIA. I PROMISED HIM I'D KEEP YOU SAFE.
AN' IF I HAFTA HANDCUFF YA TO ME NIGHT AN' DAY, THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO.

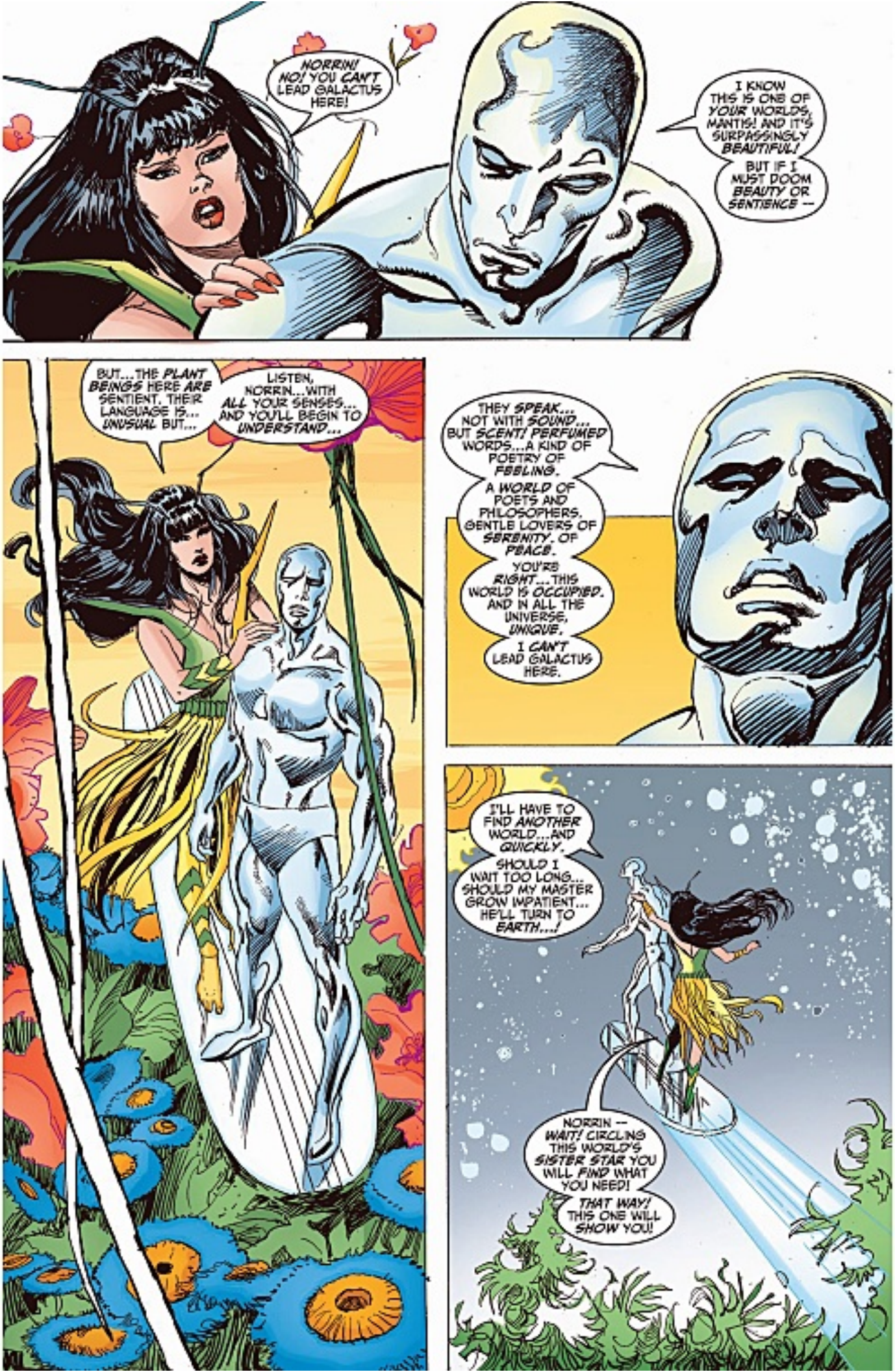

UP AHEAD!
BINARY SUNS...SISTER STARS...ROTATING... CAUGHT IN EACH OTHER'S GRAVITY WELLS.
AND A RIOT OF PLANETS. THERE, SURELY...I'LL FIND WHAT I NEED!
AS THE ENERGY SPECTRUM OF THIS ORB SUGGESTED...
...A WORLD RICH IN THE GEOCHEMICAL ENERGIES MY MASTER TRULY NEEDS!
AND BURGEONING LIFE AS WELL! ANIMAL... VEGETABLE... BUT NOT SENTIENT --
NORRIN RADD!


WELCOME TO VERDANT!
THIS ONE IS GLAD YOU HAVE COME!
MANTIS! COSMIC MADONNA! HOW --?!
I-I SHOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THIS WAS ONE OF YOUR WORLDS, BUT... IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
WHAT IS TIME TO BEINGS SUCH AS WE?
...AND, DESPITE RECENT... SUGGESTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!*
*AN EVIL IMPOSTOR POSED AS MANTIS IN AVENGERS: THE CROSSING -- BOBBIE.
AND IT SADDENED YOU? THIS ONE REGRETS THAT.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT HER ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO PURE ENERGY...
...TO TRAVEL THUS FROM PLANET TO PLANET...
...TO RECREATE HER BODY FROM INDIGENOUS PLANT LIFE...MAKES HER HARD TO KILL.
THIS ONE IS VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
YOU WON'T BE WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
I HAVE RETURNED TO GALACTUS... HAVE ONCE AGAIN BECOME HIS HERALD.
NORRIN! NO! WHY!
TO SAVE THE EARTH -- YOUR OWN HOMEWORLD -- FROM DESTRUCTION.
BUT --
YOU KNOW THAT WHEN THE UNIVERSE WAS YOUNG, GALACTUS CONSUMED RAW PLANETS AND FED INFREQUENTLY.


LATER HIS FOCUS NARROWED. HE BEGAN TO PREFER PLANETS THAT BORE LIFE...AND HE GORGED MORE FREQUENTLY.
NOW HE'S INTERESTED ONLY IN WORLDS THAT HAVE EVOLVED SENTIENT LIFE.
NOW HE STRIPS THE LIVING FLESH FROM THE PLANET'S SURFACE...
...LEAVING BEHIND THE BONES OF THE PLANET, WHICH ONCE WOULD HAVE SUSTAINED HIM FOR MONTHS.

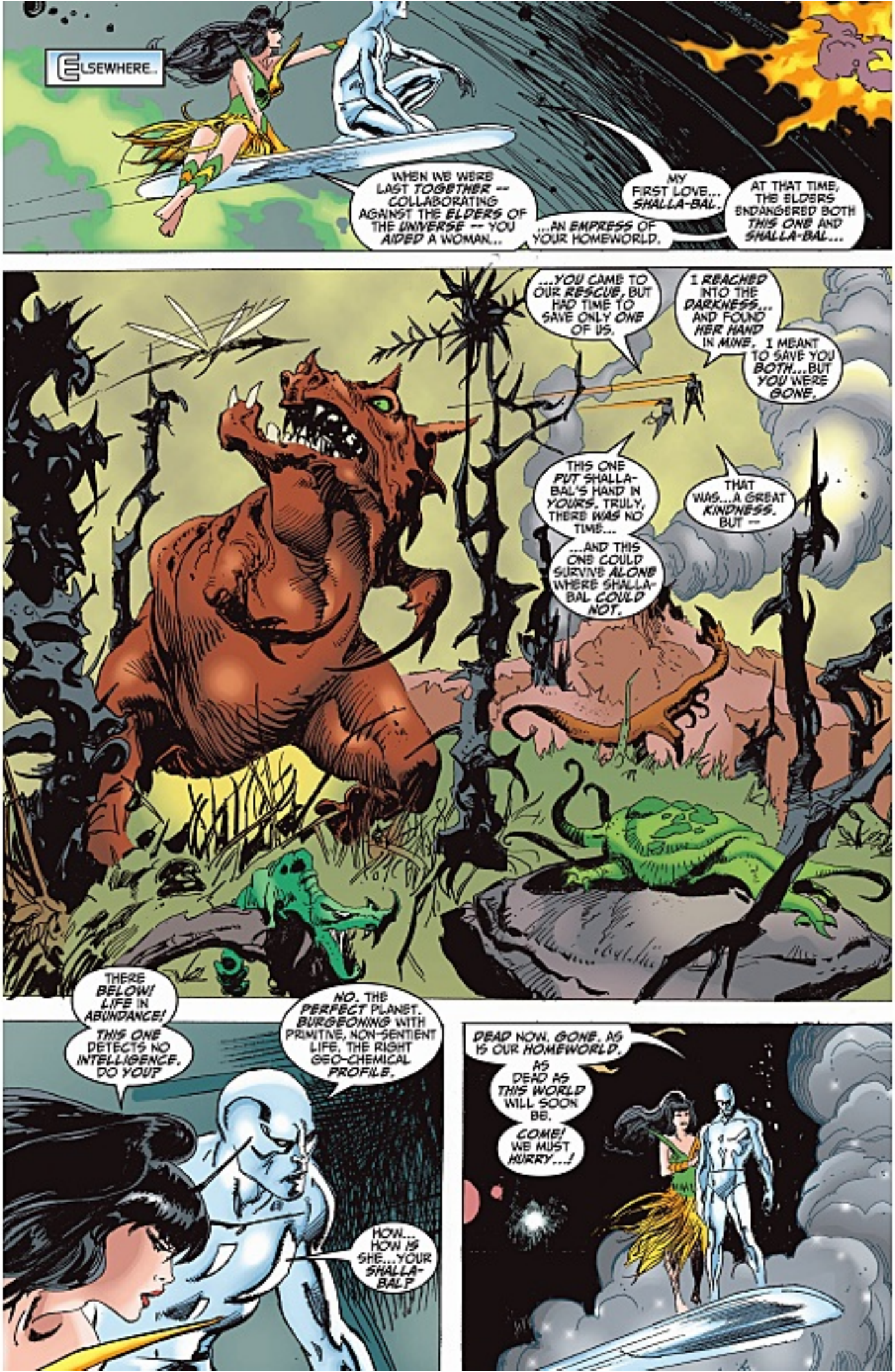
HE GRAZES, NOW, ALMOST CONSTANTLY, AND STILL IT'S NOT ENOUGH.
THIS... ABERRATION HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD...OR MAYBE HE WAS MAD ALREADY, AND THIS IS THE RESULT.
KNOWING THIS, YOU STILL RETURNED TO HIM?
WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE?

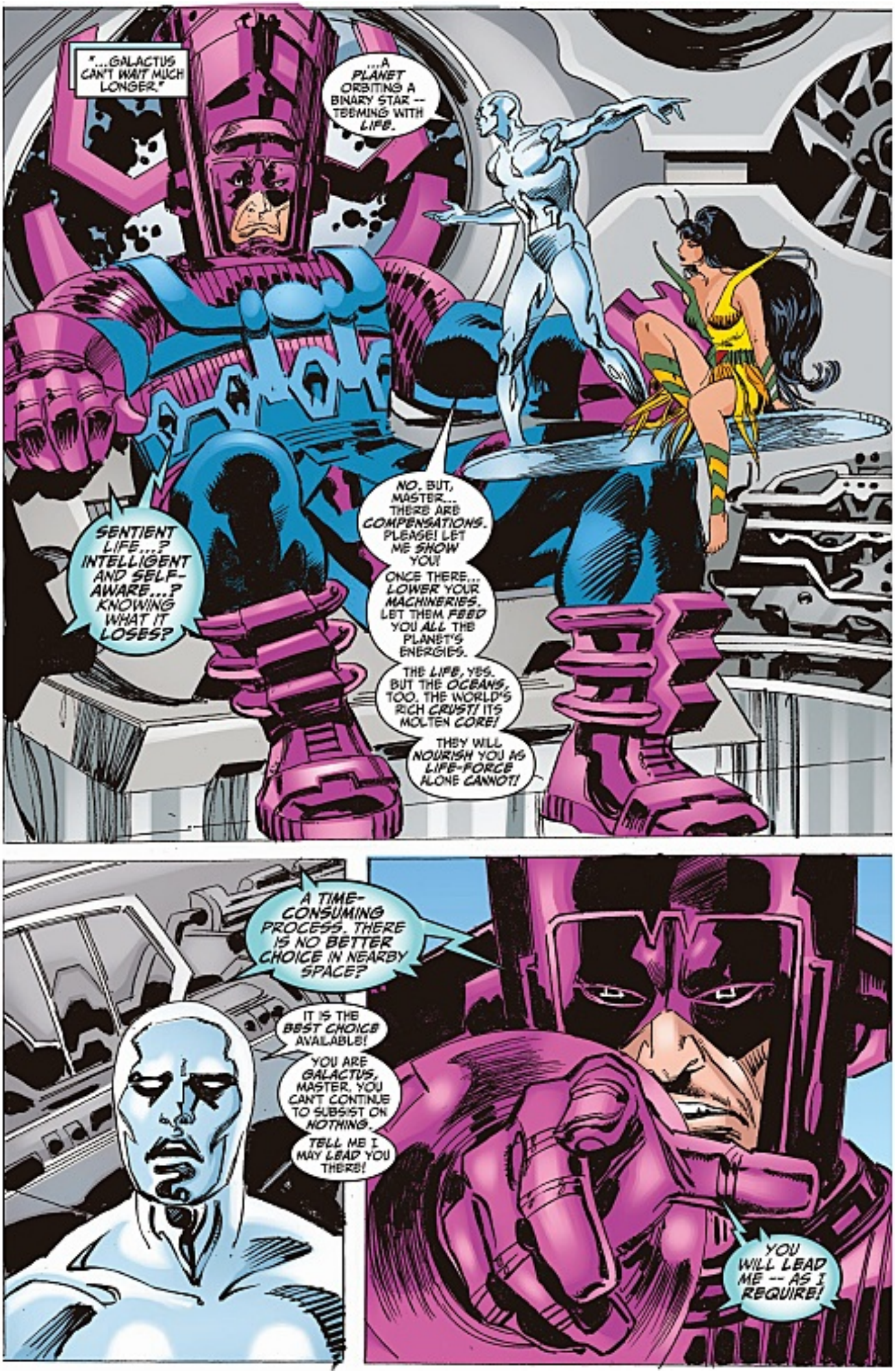
WHAT IS AN ETERNITY SPENT IN SLAVERY WHEN BALANCED AGAINST THE LIVES OF BILLIONS?
NOW I HAVE FOUND THIS LUSH PLANET...
SO RICH IN NON-SENTIENT LIFE THAT IT MAY TEMPT MY MASTER'S PALATE...
...FUEL HIS BODY... AND, PERHAPS, BEGIN THE RESTORATION OF HIS SOUL.
THIS --?!

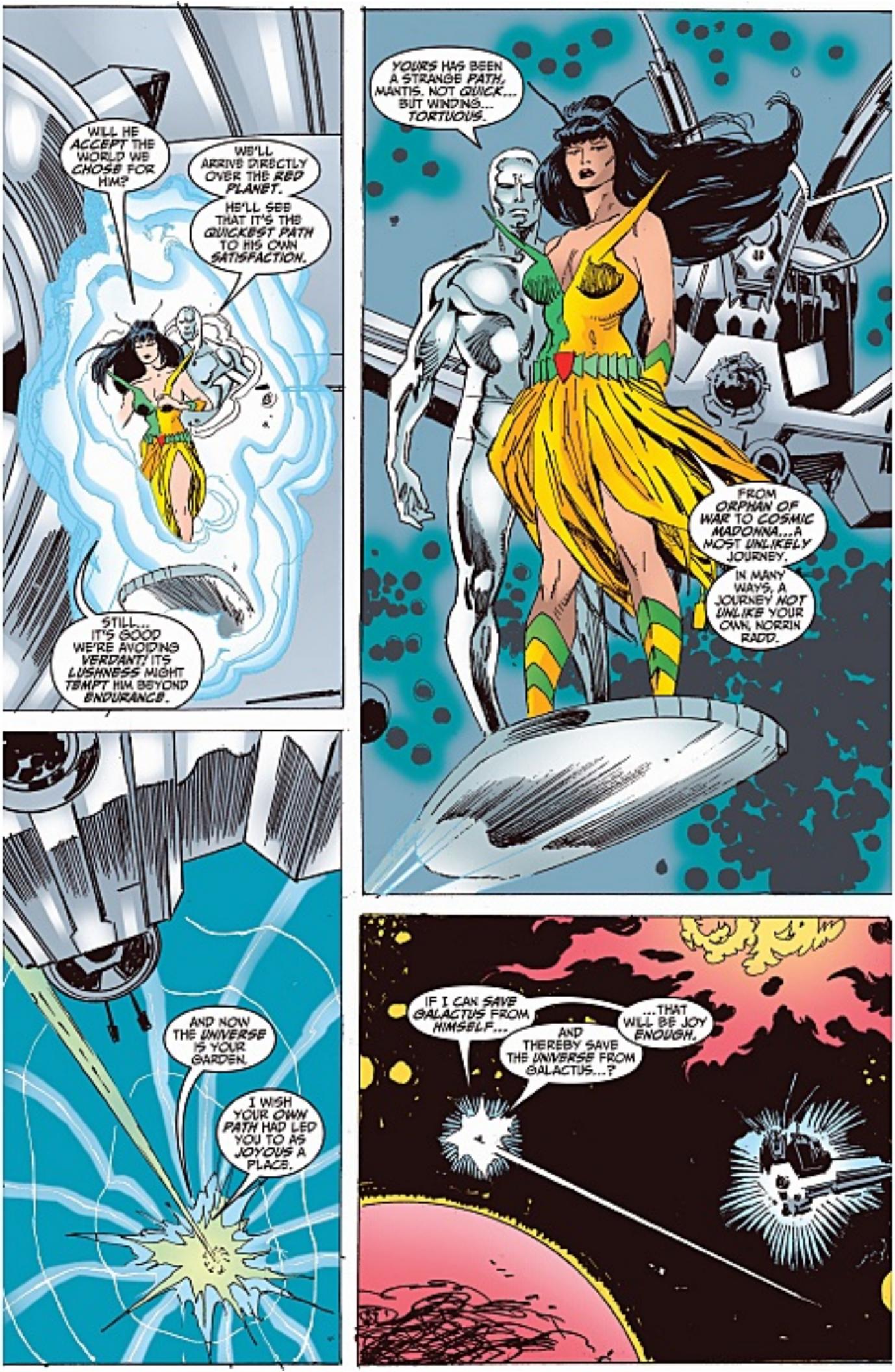

NORRIN! NO! YOU CAN'T LEAD GALACTUS HERE!
I KNOW THIS IS ONE OF YOUR WORLDS, MANTIS! AND IT'S SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL!
BUT IF I MUST DOOM BEAUTY OR SENTIENCE —
BUT...THE PLANT BEINGS HERE ARE SENTIENT. THEIR LANGUAGE IS... UNUSUAL BUT...
LISTEN, NORRIN...WITH ALL YOUR SENSES... AND YOU'LL BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND...
THEY SPEAK... NOT WITH SOUND... BUT SCENT! PERFUMED WORDS...A KIND OF POETRY OF FEELING.
A WORLD OF POETS AND PHILOSOPHERS, GENTLE LOVERS OF SERENITY. OF PEACE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...THIS WORLD IS OCCUPIED. AND IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, UNIQUE.
I CAN'T LEAD GALACTUS HERE.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WORLD...AND QUICKLY.
SHOULD I WAIT TOO LONG... SHOULD MY MASTER GROW IMPATIENT... HE'LL TURN TO EARTH...!
NORRIN — WAIT! CIRCLING THIS WORLD'S SISTER STAR YOU WILL FIND WHAT YOU NEED!
THAT WAY! THIS ONE WILL SHOW YOU!

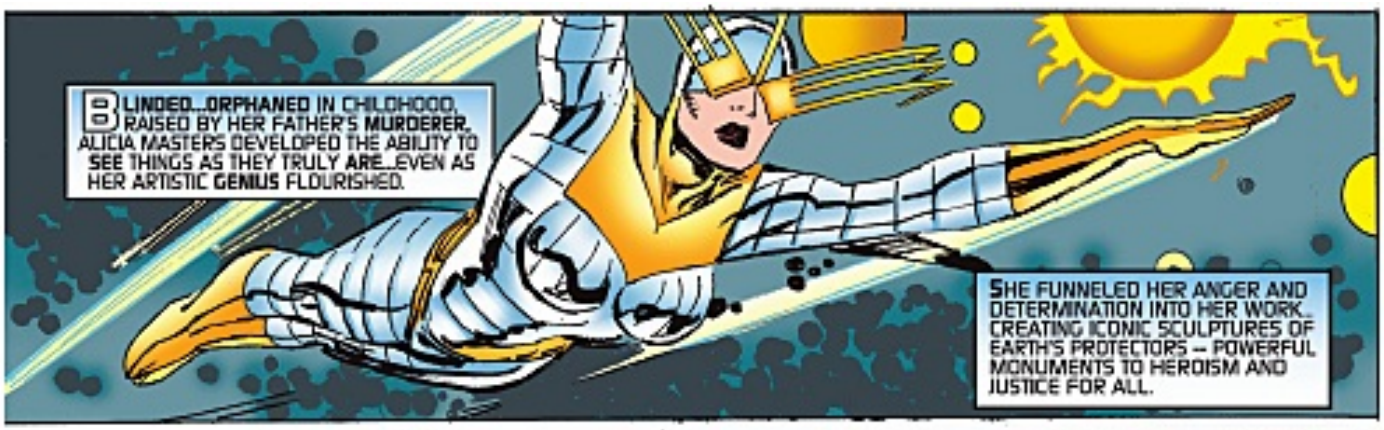
WHILE ON EARTH...
BEN, ANSWER ME! AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO REALIZES THE EXTENT OF NORRIN'S SACRIFICE?
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS EARTH HAS NO RIGHT TO ENJOY ITS SAFETY WHEN OTHER WORLDS ARE IMPERILED?
NONE OF THIS IS RIGHT!
BUT THAT'S THE POINT, 'LICIA! OTHER WORLDS MIGHT NOT BE IMPERILED.
THE SURFER THINKS HE CAN TURN GALACTUS AWAY FROM HIS MADNESS.
EVEN IF HE CAN, WHY SHOULD THE SACRIFICE BE HIS ALONE?
AND IF HE CAN'T --?! WHAT THEN?
HEY!
I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME, BEN!
I HAVE TO FIND OUT! GO TO HIM...HELP HIM...IF I CAN.
YOU LOVE HIM THAT MUCH?

I'D DO THE SAME FOR YOU...
ALICIA! NO!
COME BACK!
AW, NUTS! YOU HAD HER, GRIMM... AN' LOST HER... ALL OVER AGAIN.
BUT THEN... GIVEN WHAT SHE'S BECOME... WHAT THE HECK ELSE DID YOU EXPECT...?

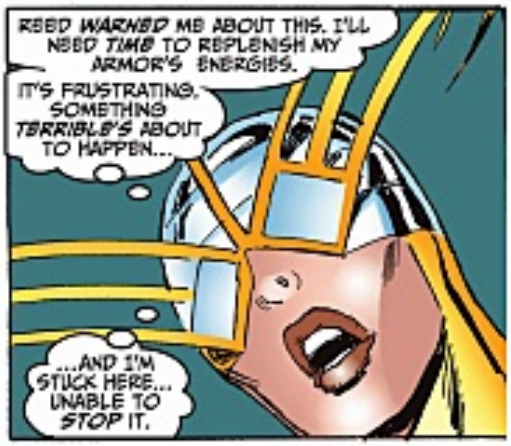

ELSEWHERE...
WHEN WE WERE LAST TOGETHER -- COLLABORATING AGAINST THE ELDERS OF THE UNIVERSE -- YOU AIDED A WOMAN...
...AN EMPRESS OF YOUR HOMEWORLD.
MY FIRST LOVE... SHALLA-BAL.
AT THAT TIME, THE ELDERS ENDANGERED BOTH THIS ONE AND SHALLA-BAL...
...YOU CAME TO OUR RESCUE, BUT HAD TIME TO SAVE ONLY ONE OF US.
I REACHED INTO THE DARKNESS... AND FOUND HER HAND IN MINE.
I MEANT TO SAVE YOU BOTH...BUT YOU WERE GONE.
THIS ONE PUT SHALLA-BAL'S HAND IN YOURS. TRULY, THERE WAS NO TIME...
...AND THIS ONE COULD SURVIVE ALONE WHERE SHALLA-BAL COULD NOT.
THAT WAS...A GREAT KINDNESS. BUT --
THERE BELOW! LIFE IN ABUNDANCE!
THIS ONE DETECTS NO INTELLIGENCE. DO YOU?
NO. THE PERFECT PLANET. BURGEONING WITH PRIMITIVE, NON-SENTIENT LIFE. THE RIGHT GEO-CHEMICAL PROFILE.
HOW... HOW IS SHE...YOUR SHALLA-BAL?
DEAD NOW. GONE. AS IS OUR HOMEWORLD.
AS DEAD AS THIS WORLD WILL SOON BE.
COME! WE MUST HURRY...!


"...GALACTUS CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER."
...A PLANET ORBITING A BINARY STAR -- TEEMING WITH LIFE.
SENTIENT LIFE...? INTELLIGENT AND SELF-AWARE...? KNOWING WHAT IT LOSES?
NO, BUT, MASTER... THERE ARE COMPENSATIONS. PLEASE! LET ME SHOW YOU!
ONCE THERE... LOWER YOUR MACHINERIES. LET THEM FEED YOU ALL THE PLANET'S ENERGIES.
THE LIFE, YES. BUT THE OCEANS, TOO. THE WORLD'S RICH CRUST! ITS MOLTEN CORE!
THEY WILL NOURISH YOU AS LIFE-FORCE ALONE CANNOT!
A TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS. THERE IS NO BETTER CHOICE IN NEARBY SPACE?
IT IS THE BEST CHOICE AVAILABLE!
YOU ARE GALACTUS, MASTER. YOU CAN'T CONTINUE TO SUBSIST ON NOTHING.
TELL ME I MAY LEAD YOU THERE!
YOU WILL LEAD ME -- AS I REQUIRE!

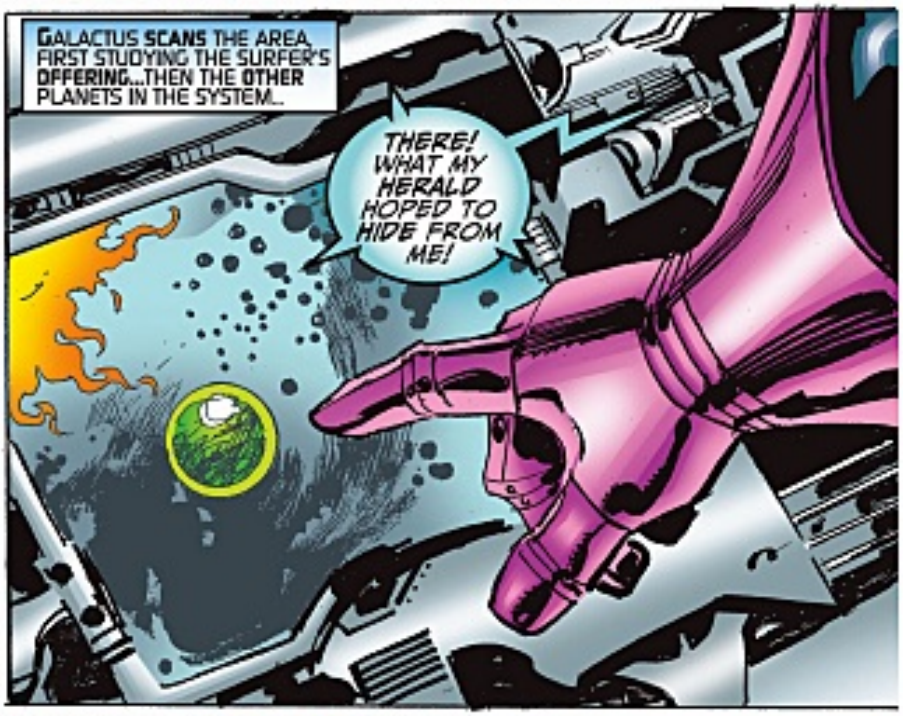

WILL HE ACCEPT THE WORLD WE CHOSE FOR HIM?
WE'LL ARRIVE DIRECTLY OVER THE RED PLANET.
HE'LL SEE THAT IT'S THE QUICKEST PATH TO HIS OWN SATISFACTION.
STILL... IT'S GOOD WE'RE AVOIDING VERDANT! ITS LUSHNESS MIGHT TEMPT HIM BEYOND ENDURANCE.
YOURS HAS BEEN A STRANGE PATH, MANTIS. NOT QUICK... BUT WINDING... TORTUOUS.
FROM ORPHAN OF WAR TO COSMIC MADONNA...A MOST UNLIKELY JOURNEY.
IN MANY WAYS, A JOURNEY NOT UNLIKE YOUR OWN, NORRIN RADD.
AND NOW THE UNIVERSE IS YOUR GARDEN.
I WISH YOUR OWN PATH HAD LED YOU TO AS JOYOUS A PLACE.
IF I CAN SAVE GALACTUS FROM HIMSELF...
AND THEREBY SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM GALACTUS...?
...THAT WILL BE JOY ENOUGH.

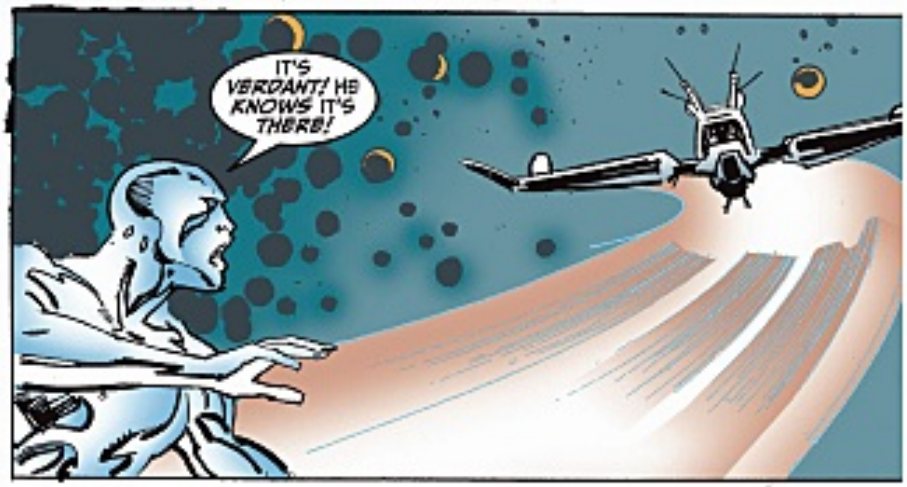

BLINDED...ORPHANED IN CHILDHOOD, RAISED BY HER FATHER'S MURDERER, ALICIA MASTERS DEVELOPED THE ABILITY TO SEE THINGS AS THEY TRULY ARE...EVEN AS HER ARTISTIC GENIUS FLOURISHED.
SHE FUNNELED HER ANGER AND DETERMINATION INTO HER WORK... CREATING ICONIC SCULPTURES OF EARTH'S PROTECTORS -- POWERFUL MONUMENTS TO HEROISM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

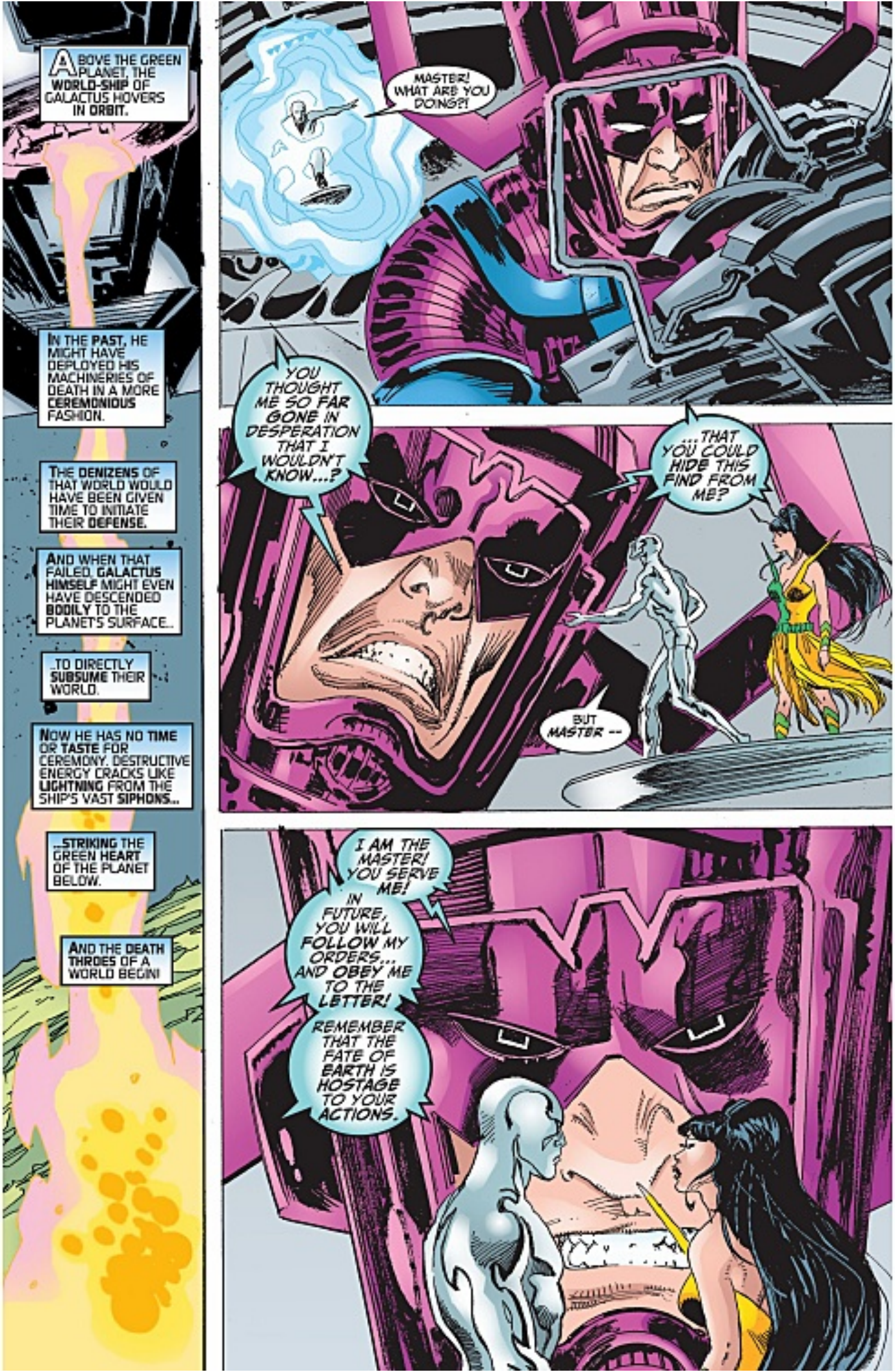
GALACTUS WAS HERE... RECENTLY, I THINK. EASY TO FOLLOW...! ...OR NOT.
NOW -- IN A BIZARRE TWIST OF FATE -- SHE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED... AND GIVEN POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF ONLY SHE HAS THE COURAGE TO USE IT!


REED WARNED ME ABOUT THIS. I'LL NEED TIME TO REPLENISH MY ARMOR'S ENERGIES.
IT'S FRUSTRATING. SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN...
...AND I'M STUCK HERE... UNABLE TO STOP IT.

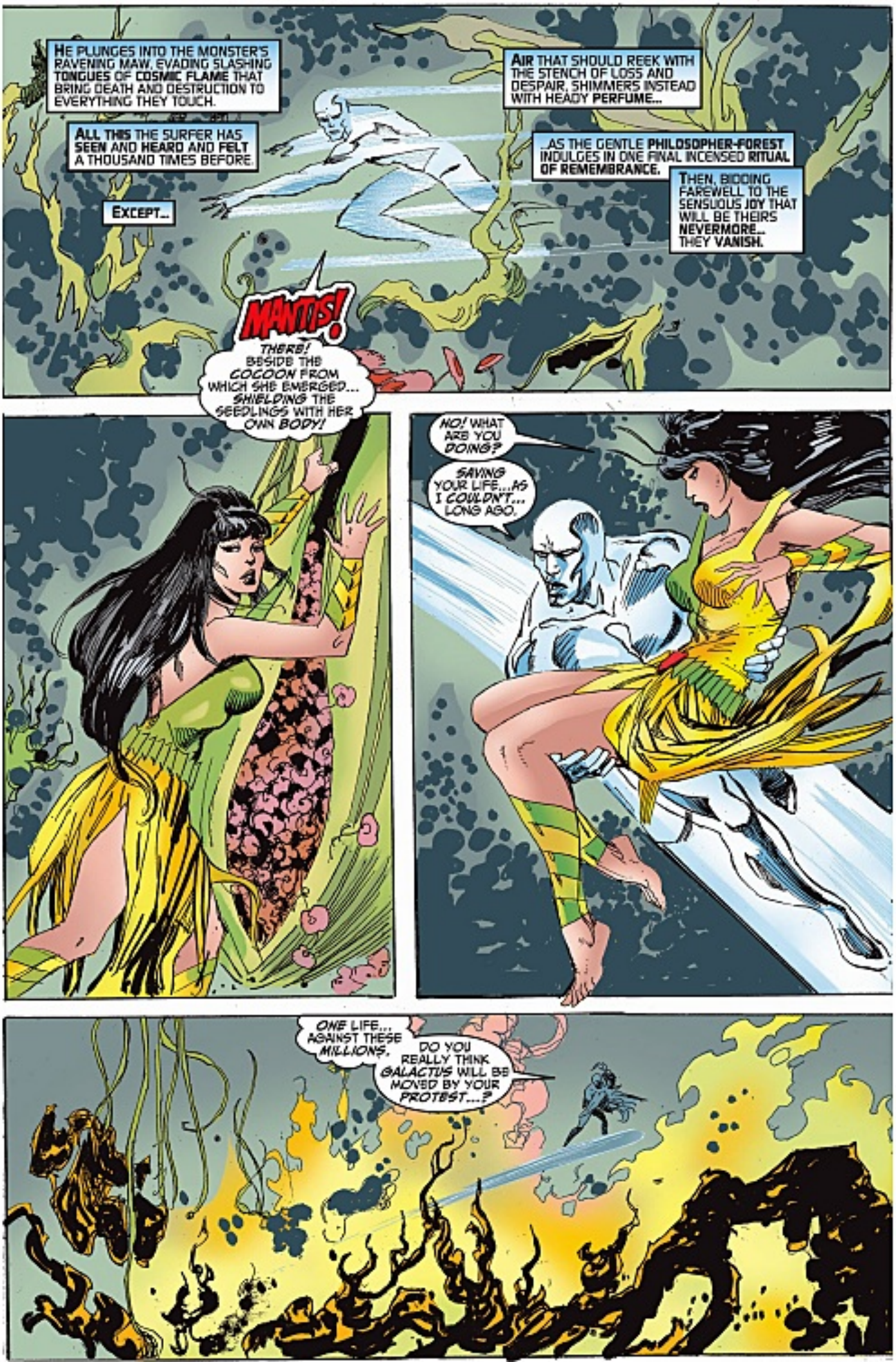
WHILE ABOVE THE RED PLANET...
GALACTUS HAS STOPPED. HIS SHIP IS SIMPLY... HOVERING HERE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG!

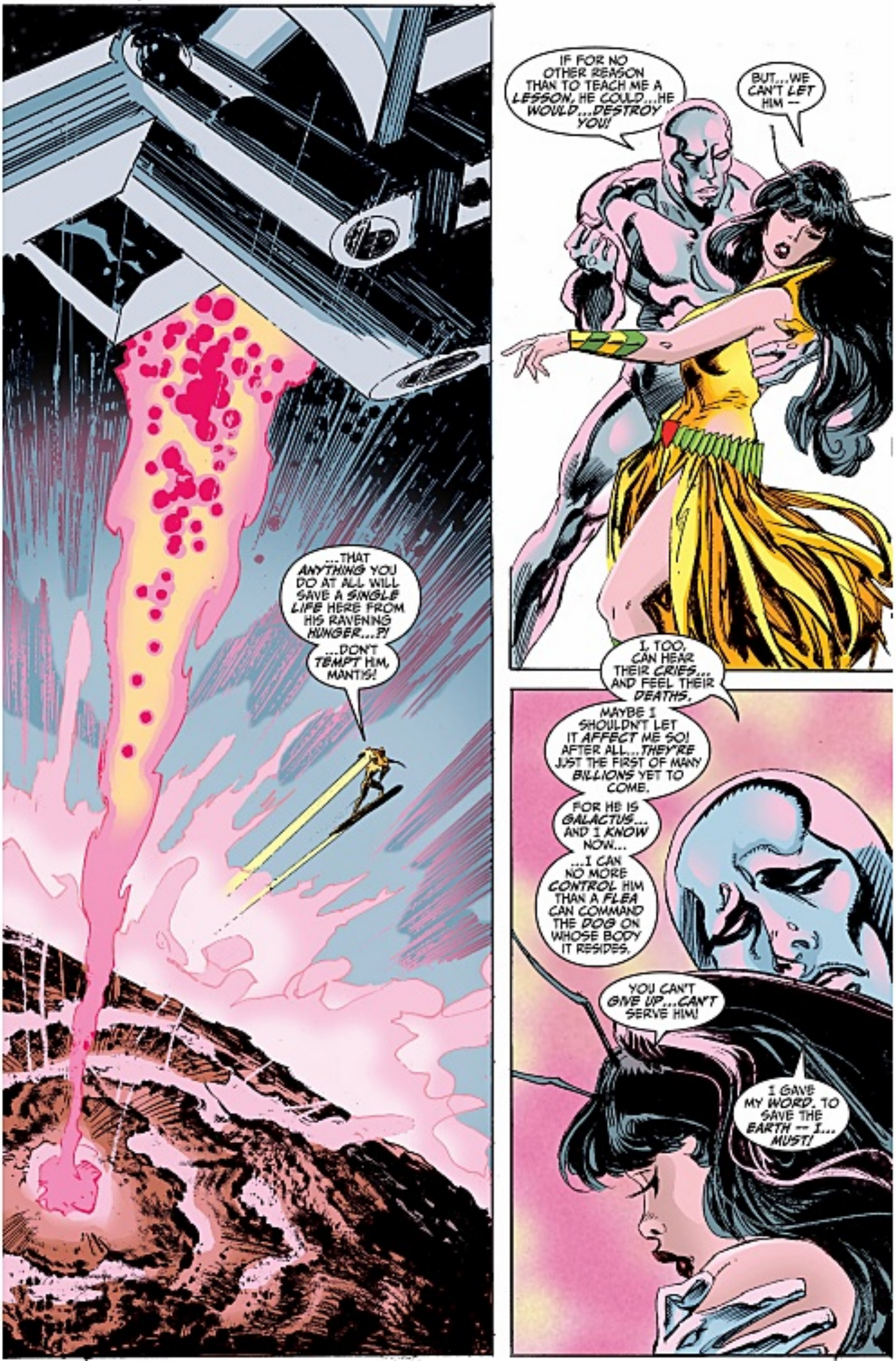

GALACTUS SCANS THE AREA, FIRST STUDYING THE SURFER'S OFFERING...THEN THE OTHER PLANETS IN THE SYSTEM...
THERE! WHAT MY HERALD HOPED TO HIDE FROM ME!

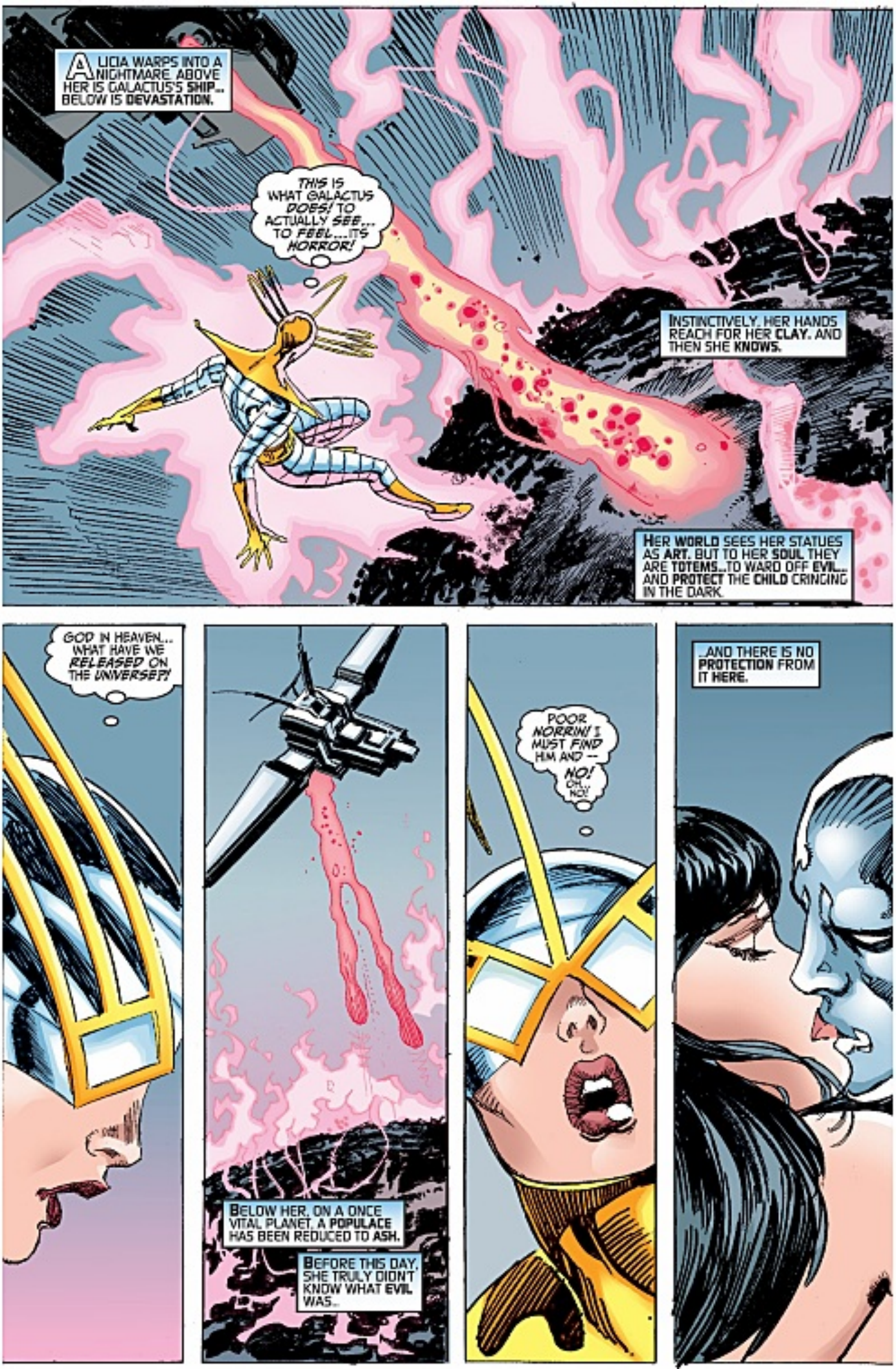

IT'S VERDANT! HE KNOWS IT'S THERE!

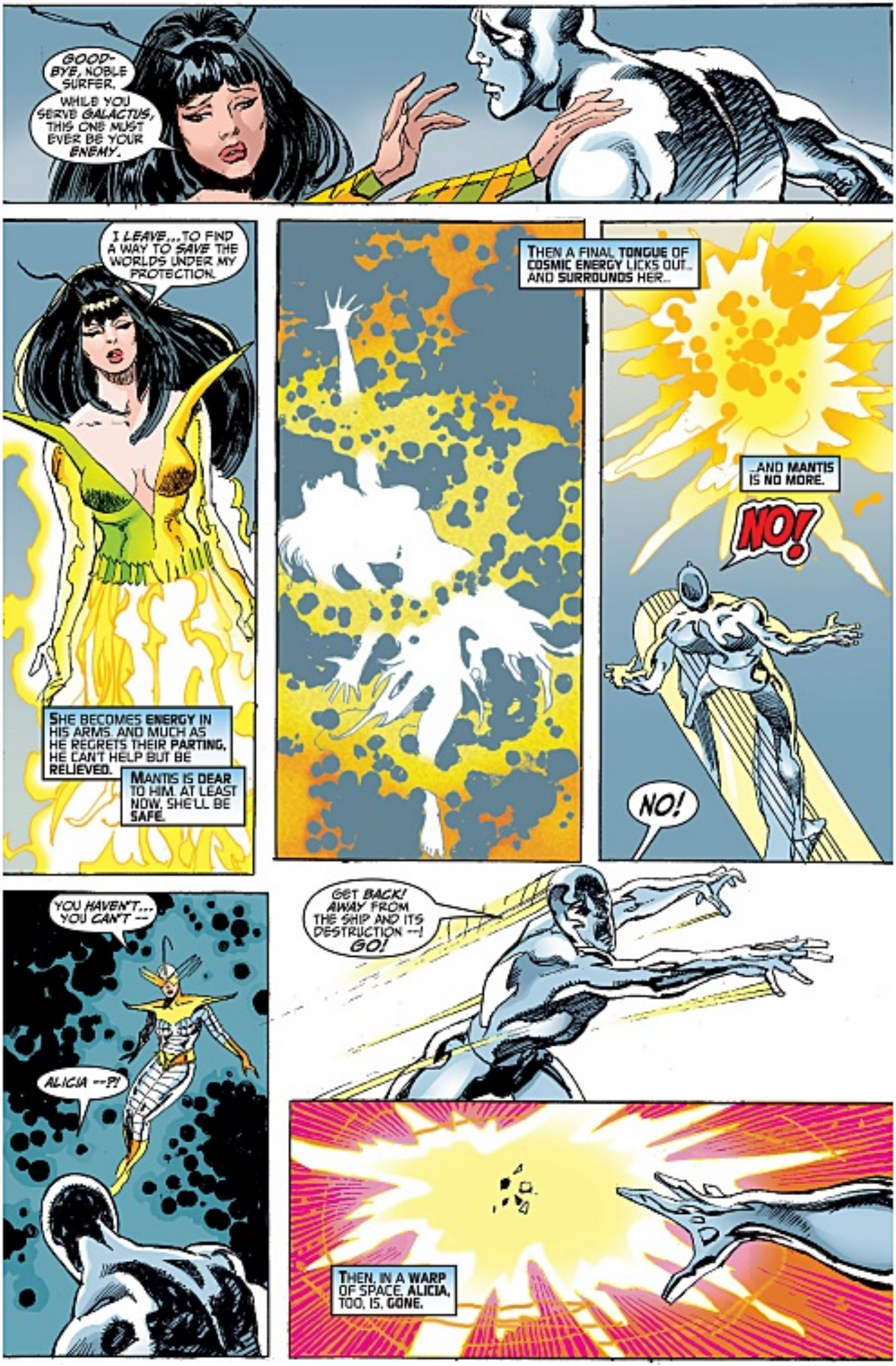

ABOVE THE GREEN PLANET, THE WORLD-SHIP OF GALACTUS HOVERS IN ORBIT.
IN THE PAST, HE MIGHT HAVE DEPLOYED HIS MACHINERIES OF DEATH IN A MORE CEREMONIOUS FASHION.
THE DENIZENS OF THAT WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TIME TO INITIATE THEIR DEFENSE.
AND WHEN THAT FAILED, GALACTUS HIMSELF MIGHT EVEN HAVE DESCENDED BODILY TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE...
...TO DIRECTLY SUBSUME THEIR WORLD.
NOW HE HAS NO TIME OR TASTE FOR CEREMONY. DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY CRACKS LIKE LIGHTNING FROM THE SHIP'S VAST SIPHONS...
...STRIKING THE GREEN HEART OF THE PLANET BELOW.
AND THE DEATH THROES OF A WORLD BEGIN!
MASTER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU THOUGHT ME SO FAR GONE IN DESPERATION THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW...?
...THAT YOU COULD HIDE THIS FIND FROM ME?
BUT MASTER --
I AM THE MASTER! YOU SERVE ME!
IN FUTURE, YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS... AND OBEY ME TO THE LETTER!
REMEMBER THAT THE FATE OF EARTH IS HOSTAGE TO YOUR ACTIONS.

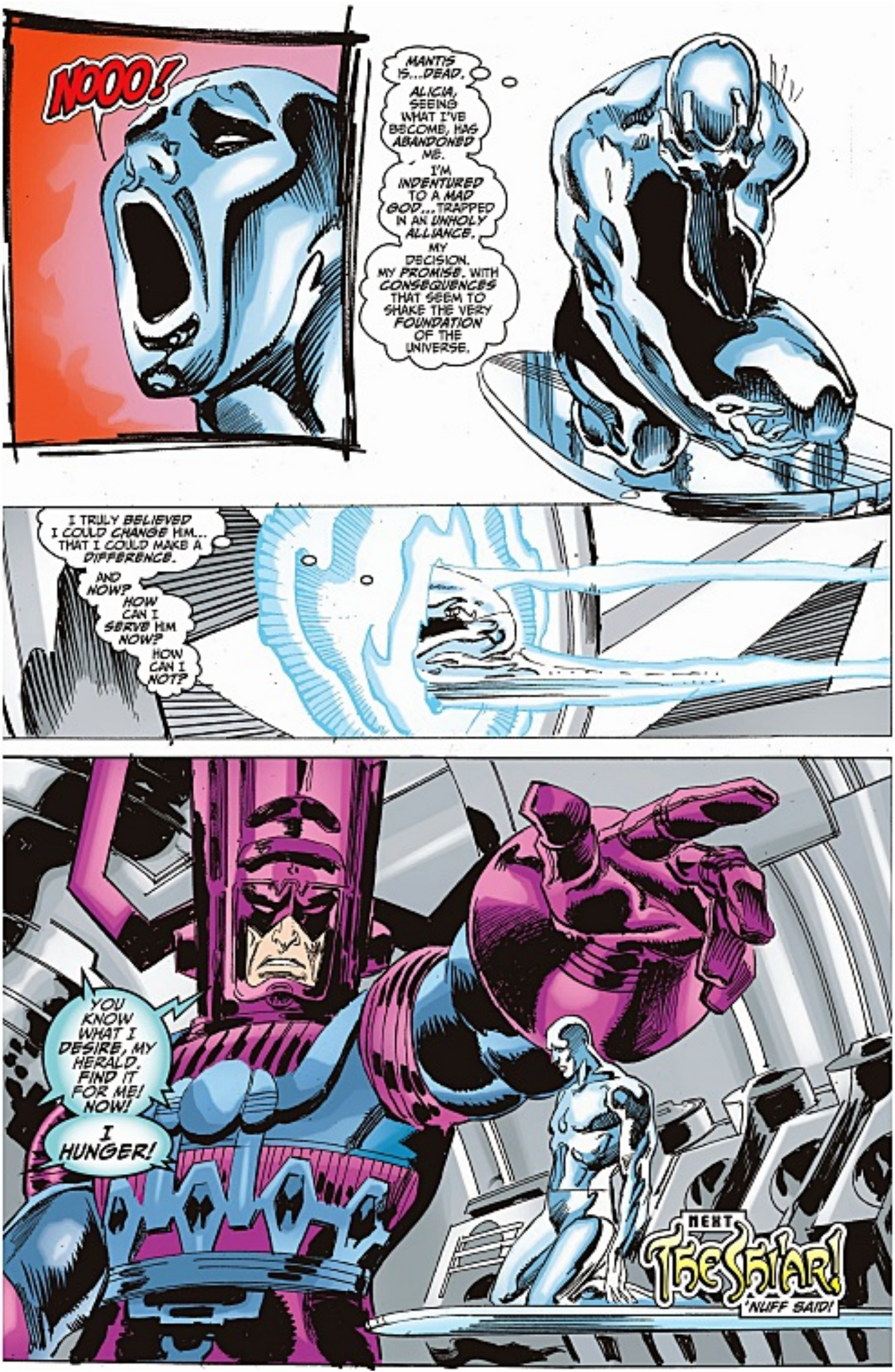
IS THERE NO WAY YOU CAN BE BROUGHT TO SPARE THE WORLD BELOW?
I HUNGER! IT IS MY WILL THAT THIS PLANET BELOW SHALL FEED ME!
AND MY WILL SHALL BE DONE!
THERE MAY STILL BE A WAY... TO GET THROUGH TO GALACTUS...TO CONVINCE HIM TO STOP...! IF I --
MANTIS!
SHE CONVERTED TO ENERGY... IS TRAVELING TO VERDANT!
HE THRUST US FROM THE SHIP...OUT HERE...
...WHERE WE CAN WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION!
THIS IS HOW HE PUNISHES US FOR DEFYING HIM!
THAT'S MADNESS!


HE PLUNGES INTO THE MONSTER'S RAVENING MAW, EVADING SLASHING TONGUES OF COSMIC FLAME THAT BRING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH.
ALL THIS THE SURFER HAS SEEN AND HEARD AND FELT A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE.
EXCEPT...
AIR THAT SHOULD REEK WITH THE STENCH OF LOSS AND DESPAIR, SHIMMERS INSTEAD WITH HEADY PERFUME...
...AS THE GENTLE PHILOSOPHER-FOREST INDULGES IN ONE FINAL INCENSED RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE.
THEN, BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE SENSUOUS JOY THAT WILL BE THEIRS NEVERMORE... THEY VANISH.
MANTIS!
THERE! BESIDE THE COCOON FROM WHICH SHE EMERGED... SHIELDING THE SEEDLINGS WITH HER OWN BODY!
NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAVING YOUR LIFE...AS I COULDN'T... LONG AGO.
ONE LIFE... AGAINST THESE MILLIONS.
DO YOU REALLY THINK GALACTUS WILL BE MOVED BY YOUR PROTEST...?


...THAT ANYTHING YOU DO AT ALL WILL SAVE A SINGLE LIFE HERE FROM HIS RAVENING HUNGER...?!
...DON'T TEMPT HIM, MANTIS!
IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO TEACH ME A LESSON, HE COULD...HE WOULD...DESTROY YOU!
BUT...WE CAN'T LET HIM --
I, TOO, CAN HEAR THEIR CRIES... AND FEEL THEIR DEATHS,
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T LET IT AFFECT ME SO! AFTER ALL...THEY'RE JUST THE FIRST OF MANY BILLIONS YET TO COME.
FOR HE IS GALACTUS... AND I KNOW NOW...
...I CAN NO MORE CONTROL HIM THAN A FLEA CAN COMMAND THE DOG ON WHOSE BODY IT RESIDES.
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP...CAN'T SERVE HIM!
I GAVE MY WORD, TO SAVE THE EARTH -- I... MUST!

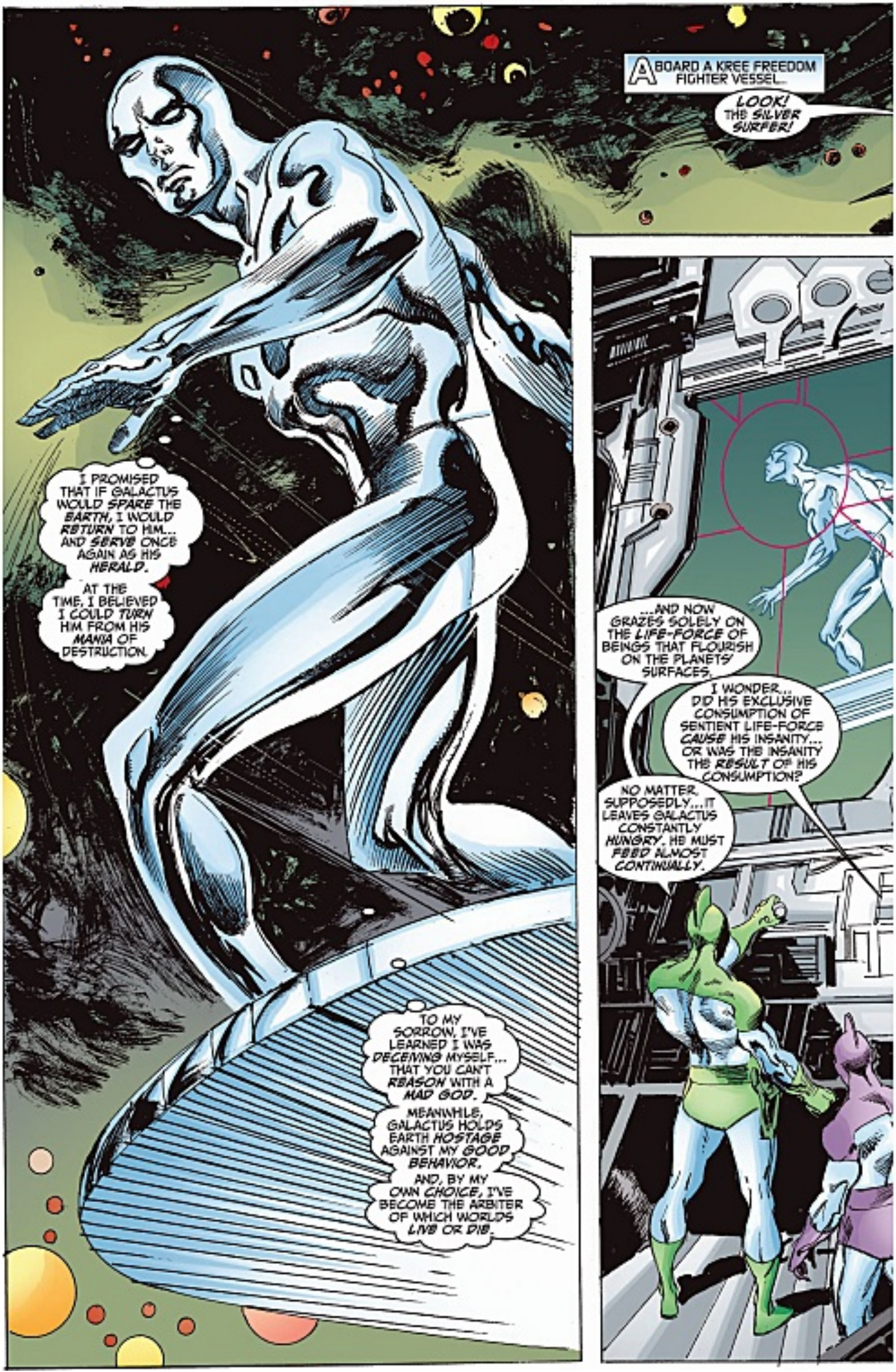

ALICIA WARPS INTO A NIGHTMARE. ABOVE HER IS GALACTUS'S SHIP... BELOW IS DEVASTATION.
THIS IS WHAT GALACTUS DOES! TO ACTUALLY SEE... TO FEEL....ITS HORROR!
INSTINCTIVELY, HER HANDS REACH FOR HER CLAY. AND THEN SHE KNOWS.
HER WORLD SEES HER STATUES AS ART. BUT TO HER SOUL THEY ARE TOTEMS...TO WARD OFF EVIL... AND PROTECT THE CHILD CRINGING IN THE DARK.
GOD IN HEAVEN... WHAT HAVE WE RELEASED ON THE UNIVERSE?!
BELOW HER, ON A ONCE VITAL PLANET, A POPULACE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ASH.
BEFORE THIS DAY, SHE TRULY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT EVIL WAS...
POOR NORRIN! I MUST FIND HIM AND --
NO! OH... NO!
...AND THERE IS NO PROTECTION FROM IT HERE.


GOOD-BYE, NOBLE SURFER.
WHILE YOU SERVE GALACTUS, THIS ONE MUST EVER BE YOUR ENEMY.
I LEAVE...TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE THE WORLDS UNDER MY PROTECTION.
SHE BECOMES ENERGY IN HIS ARMS. AND MUCH AS HE REGRETS THEIR PARTING, HE CAN'T HELP BUT BE RELIEVED.
MANTIS IS DEAR TO HIM. AT LEAST NOW, SHE'LL BE SAFE.
THEN A FINAL TONGUE OF COSMIC ENERGY LICKS OUT... AND SURROUNDS HER...
...AND MANTIS IS NO MORE.
NO!
NO!
YOU HAVEN'T... YOU CAN'T --
ALICIA --?!
GET BACK! AWAY FROM THE SHIP AND ITS DESTRUCTION --! GO!
THEN, IN A WARP OF SPACE, ALICIA, TOO, IS GONE.

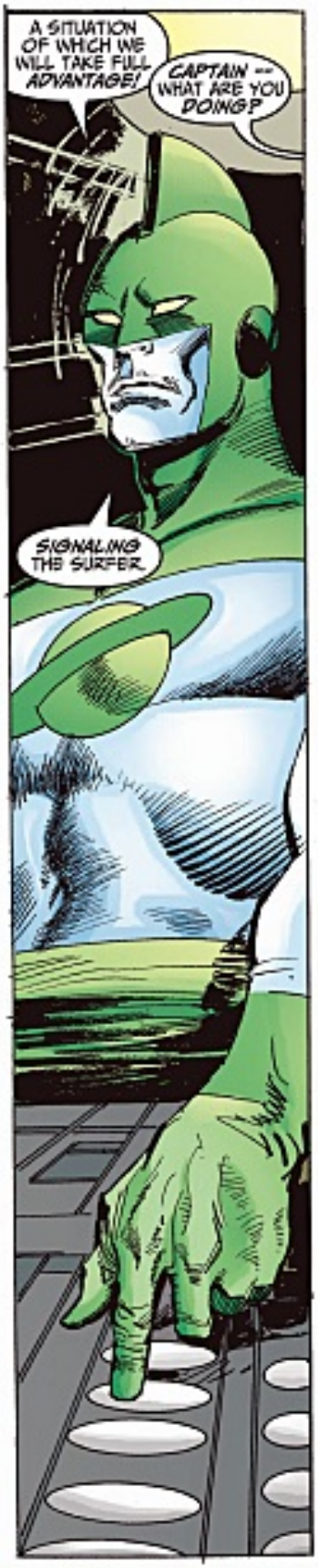

NOOO!
MANTIS IS...DEAD.
ALICIA, SEEING WHAT I'VE BECOME, HAS ABANDONED ME.
I'M INDENTURED TO A MAD GOD...TRAPPED IN AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE.
MY DECISION. MY PROMISE. WITH CONSEQUENCES THAT SEEM TO SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSE.
I TRULY BELIEVED I COULD CHANGE HIM... THAT I COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
AND NOW? HOW CAN I SERVE HIM NOW? HOW CAN I NOT?
YOU KNOW WHAT I DESIRE, MY HERALD. FIND IT FOR ME! NOW!
I HUNGER!
NEXT
THE SHIAR!
'NUFF SAID!

MARVEL COMICS
#5
WWW.MARVEL.COM
HE BROUGHT
GALACTUS
THE DEVOURER
TO OUR WORLD...
60 YEARS OF SUPER HEROES
...AND FOR THAT, THE SURFER MUST DIE!
SIMONSON
BUSCEMA
SIENKIEWICZ

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
HERALD
LOUISE SIMONSON STORY JOHN BUSCEMA PENCILS BILL SIENKIEWICZ INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS RS& COMICRAFT's TROY PETERI LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF
SOMEWHERE DEEP IN SPACE, ABOARD GALACTUS'S SHIP...
GO, HERALD! FIND ME ANOTHER WORLD TO ASSUAGE MY CEASELESS HUNGER!
A LIVING WORLD... POPULATED BY SENTIENT BEINGS...AND DENSELY POPULATED!
BUT... MASTER...!
YOU HAVE PROMISED TO SERVE ME, NORRIN RADD! CHOOSE A WORLD SOON... OR I WILL MAKE MY OWN CHOICE.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT CHOICE WILL BE!


I PROMISED THAT IF GALACTUS WOULD SPARE THE EARTH, I WOULD RETURN TO HIM... AND SERVE ONCE AGAIN AS HIS HERALD.
AT THE TIME, I BELIEVED I COULD TURN HIM FROM HIS MANIA OF DESTRUCTION.
TO MY SORROW, I'VE LEARNED I WAS DECEIVING MYSELF... THAT YOU CAN'T REASON WITH A MAD GOD.
MEANWHILE, GALACTUS HOLDS EARTH HOSTAGE AGAINST MY GOOD BEHAVIOR.
AND, BY MY OWN CHOICE, I'VE BECOME THE ARBITER OF WHICH WORLDS LIVE OR DIE.
ABOARD A KREE FREEDOM FIGHTER VESSEL...
LOOK! THE SILVER SURFER!
...AND NOW GRAZES SOLELY ON THE LIFE-FORCE OF BEINGS THAT FLOURISH ON THE PLANETS' SURFACES.
I WONDER... DID HIS EXCLUSIVE CONSUMPTION OF SENTIENT LIFE-FORCE CAUSE HIS INSANITY... OR WAS THE INSANITY THE RESULT OF HIS CONSUMPTION?
NO MATTER. SUPPOSEDLY... IT LEAVES GALACTUS CONSTANTLY HUNGRY. HE MUST FEED ALMOST CONTINUALLY.

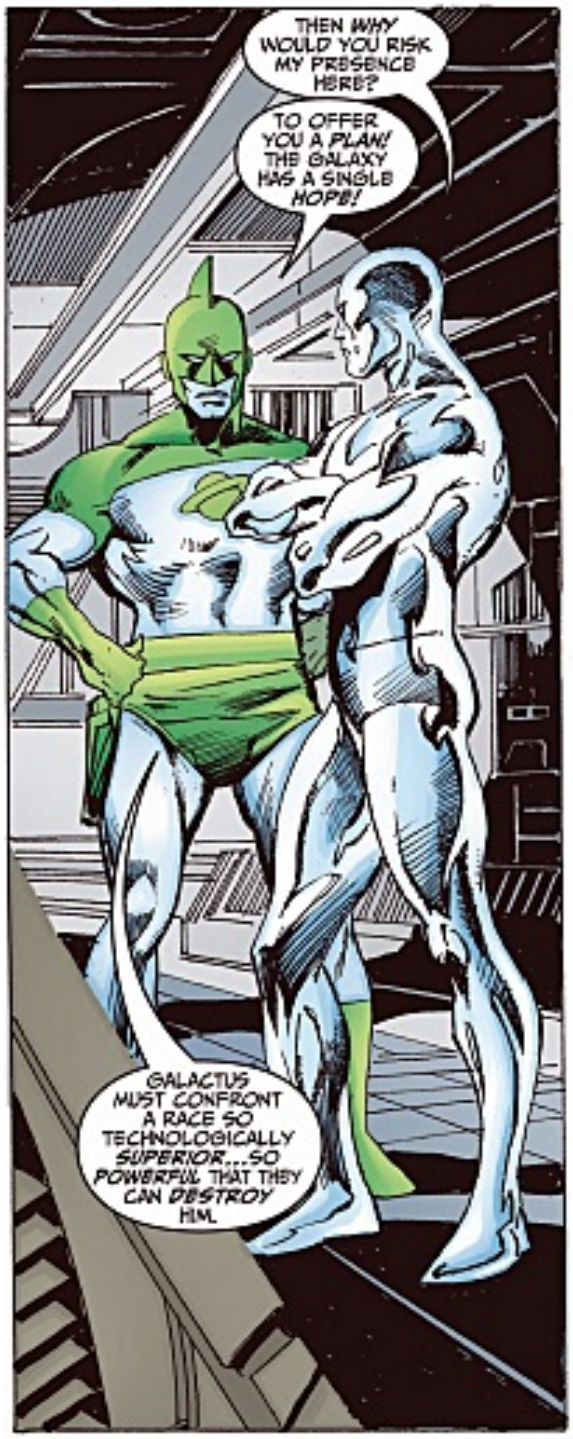
IF INTERPLANETARY COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE BELIEVED, HE HAS *RESUMED* HIS PLACE AS GALACTUS'S HERALD...
...WHILE GALACTUS HAS CEASED TO CONSUME THE *MOLTEN CORE* OF PLANETS...


A SITUATION OF WHICH WE WILL TAKE FULL *ADVANTAGE!*
CAPTAIN -- WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*
SIGNALING THE SURFER.

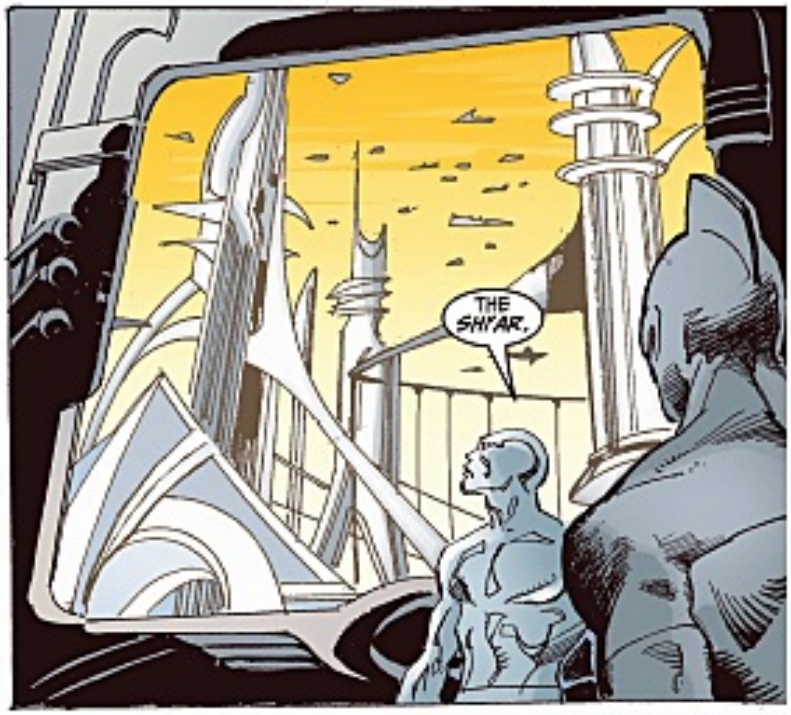
SIR, HAVE YOU TOO *GONE MAD?*
THE MADNESS IS *YOURS*, FOR *QUESTIONING* MY DECISIONS! LEARN *THIS*, IF YOU LEARN *NOTHING ELSE!*

GALACTUS IS A FORCE BENEVOLENT TO US KREE.
BENEVOLENT?! SIR-- HOW CAN YOU SAY --?!
IN THE *PAST*, HE *DESTROYED* THE HOMEWORLD OF THE *SKRULL* -- OUR ANCIENT RIVALS!
WHEN GALACTUS *NEXT* FEEDS...IT WILL BE UPON THE *HOMEWORLD* OF THE *SHI'AR* -- OUR HATED *CONQUERORS!*

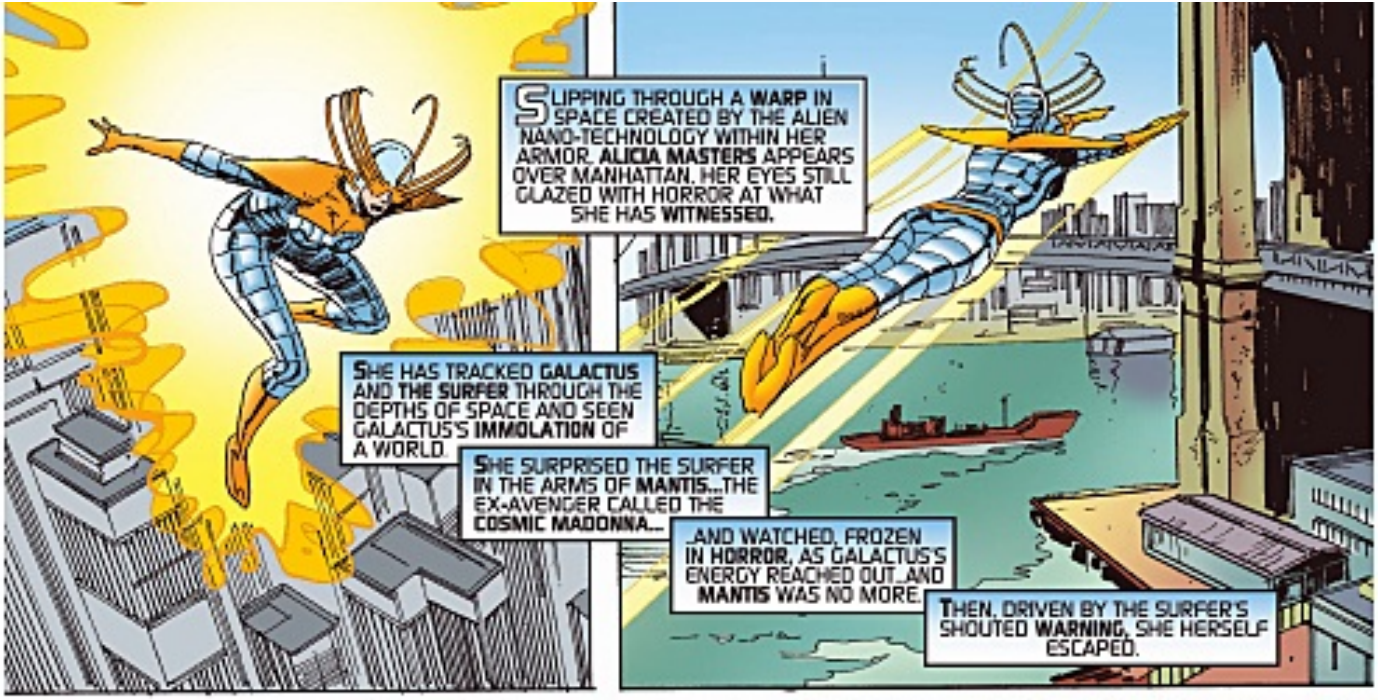
ARE YOU MAD TO INVITE ME ABOARD YOUR SHIP...OR DON'T YOU YET KNOW I SERVE THE DEVOURER?
WORD OF WHAT GALACTUS HAS BECOME HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, NORRIN RADD...
...AS HAS THE NEWS THAT YOU HAVE RETURNED RELUCTANTLY TO SERVE HIM.


THEN WHY WOULD YOU RISK MY PRESENCE HERE?
TO OFFER YOU A PLAN! THE GALAXY HAS A SINGLE HOPE!
GALACTUS MUST CONFRONT A RACE SO TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR...SO POWERFUL THAT THEY CAN DESTROY HIM.

OF THE THREE MAJOR EMPIRE BUILDING RACES IN OUR UNIVERSE, ONE HAS SUBSUMED THE OTHERS...
...BECOME DOMINANT, AND THUS STRONGEST!


THE SHI'AR.

MAJESTRIX LILANDRA IS ON THEIR HOMEWORLD AT PRESENT...
...ALONG WITH GLADIATOR OF HER IMPERIAL GUARD.
IF THE SHI'AR CAN'T DESTROY GALACTUS -- THEN WHO CAN?


SLIPPING THROUGH A WARP IN SPACE CREATED BY THE ALIEN NANO-TECHNOLOGY WITHIN HER ARMOR, ALICIA MASTERS APPEARS OVER MANHATTAN. HER EYES STILL GLAZED WITH HORROR AT WHAT SHE HAS WITNESSED.
SHE HAS TRACKED GALACTUS AND THE SURFER THROUGH THE DEPTHS OF SPACE AND SEEN GALACTUS'S IMMOLATION OF A WORLD.
SHE SURPRISED THE SURFER IN THE ARMS OF MANTIS...THE EX-AVENGER CALLED THE COSMIC MADONNA...
...AND WATCHED, FROZEN IN HORROR, AS GALACTUS'S ENERGY REACHED OUT...AND MANTIS WAS NO MORE.
THEN, DRIVEN BY THE SURFER'S SHOUTED WARNING, SHE HERSELF ESCAPED.

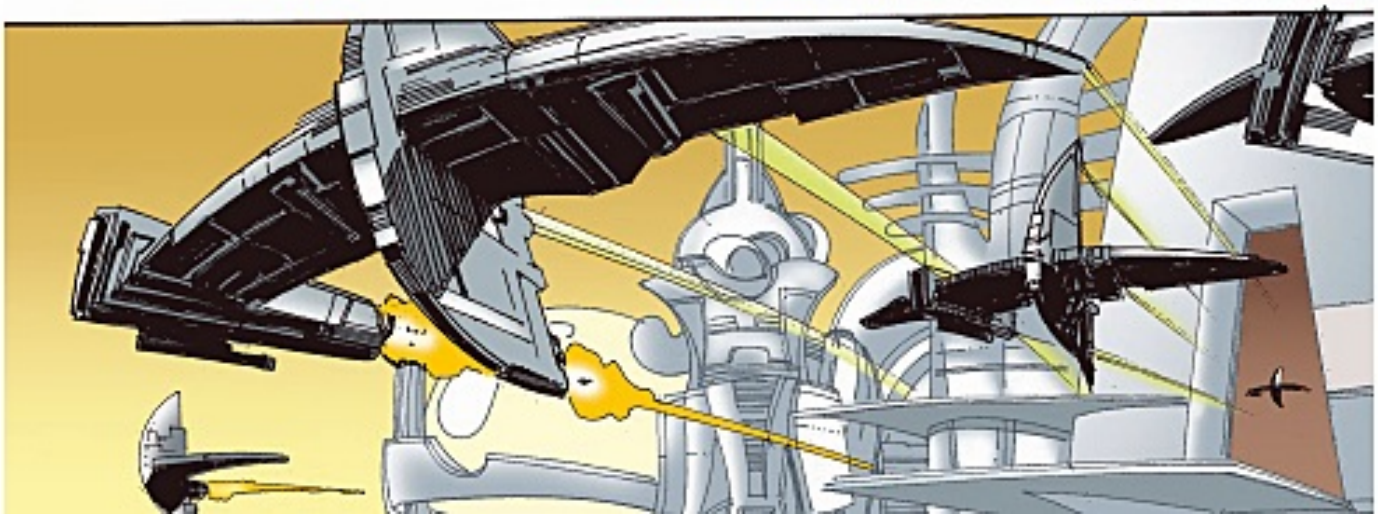
ONCE AGAIN, SHE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH A COSMIC CASSANDRA...THE RELUCTANT HARBINGER OF DOOM...
...THIS TIME, INTERRUPTING AN APPARENT CELEBRATION ENCOMPASSING THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FF ON PIER FOUR.
HOW...HOW CAN YOU ALL CALLOUSLY FEAST HERE...KNOWING THAT WHILE YOU DO, ELSEWHERE, GALACTUS FEASTS ON WORLDS?
ALICIA?! BABE! YER BACK!

SOON...
NORRIN SAVED THE EARTH, BEN, BUT OTHER WORLDS ARE THREATENED! I SAW THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE OF THEM!
IT WAS... HORRIBLE...BEYOND IMAGINING!
WE CAN'T LET IT GO ON. SOMEHOW WE HAVE TO STOP GALACTUS!
REED THINKS SO, TOO, 'LICIA! HE JUST FINISHED SLAPPIN' TOGETHER A BATCH OF GIZMOS HE HOPES'LL DO THE TRICK!
AFTER WE EAT, WE'RE HEADIN' OUT! PROBABLY BE OUR LAST MEAL.
WE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE... HUH?
WILL... WILL IT WORK, BEN?
I DUNNO. ME? I WISH REED HAD LET GALACTUS DIE THE EASY WAY... BACK WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE.
THE REBEL KREE CAPTAIN WANTS ME TO SEND GALACTUS AGAINST THE SHI'AR LIKE A WEAPON...
...HOPING THE SHI'AR WILL BE DESTROYED...
...FREEING THE KREE TO PURSUE THEIR OWN GOALS OF CONQUEST.
HIS MOTIVES ARE TRANSPARENT... BUT HIS LOGIC IS IMPECCABLE.
THE SHI'AR ARE WARRIORS BRED FOR GENERATIONS... AT THE PINNACLE OF THEIR CIVILIZATION.
THEY MAY WELL BE THE GALAXY'S ONLY HOPE.

ON THE ROYAL PALACE OF THE SHI'AR...
IT'S AS WE FEARED, MAJESTRIX...AS ALL WORLDS MUST FEAR GALACTUS'S MADNESS...AND HIS RECENT DEPREDATIONS.
THE HERALD HAS COME TO THE SHI'AR HOMEWORLD!
HOW DARE THE SILVER SURFER LEAD THAT MAD GOD HERE --?!
MAJESTRIX LILANDRA...YOU LED THE MOVEMENT TO TRY REED RICHARDS FOR SAVING THE LIFE OF GALACTUS.
CAN THIS BE RICHARDS' REVENGE? DID HE SEND HIS ALLY --
I DOUBT THAT, COUNSELOR.

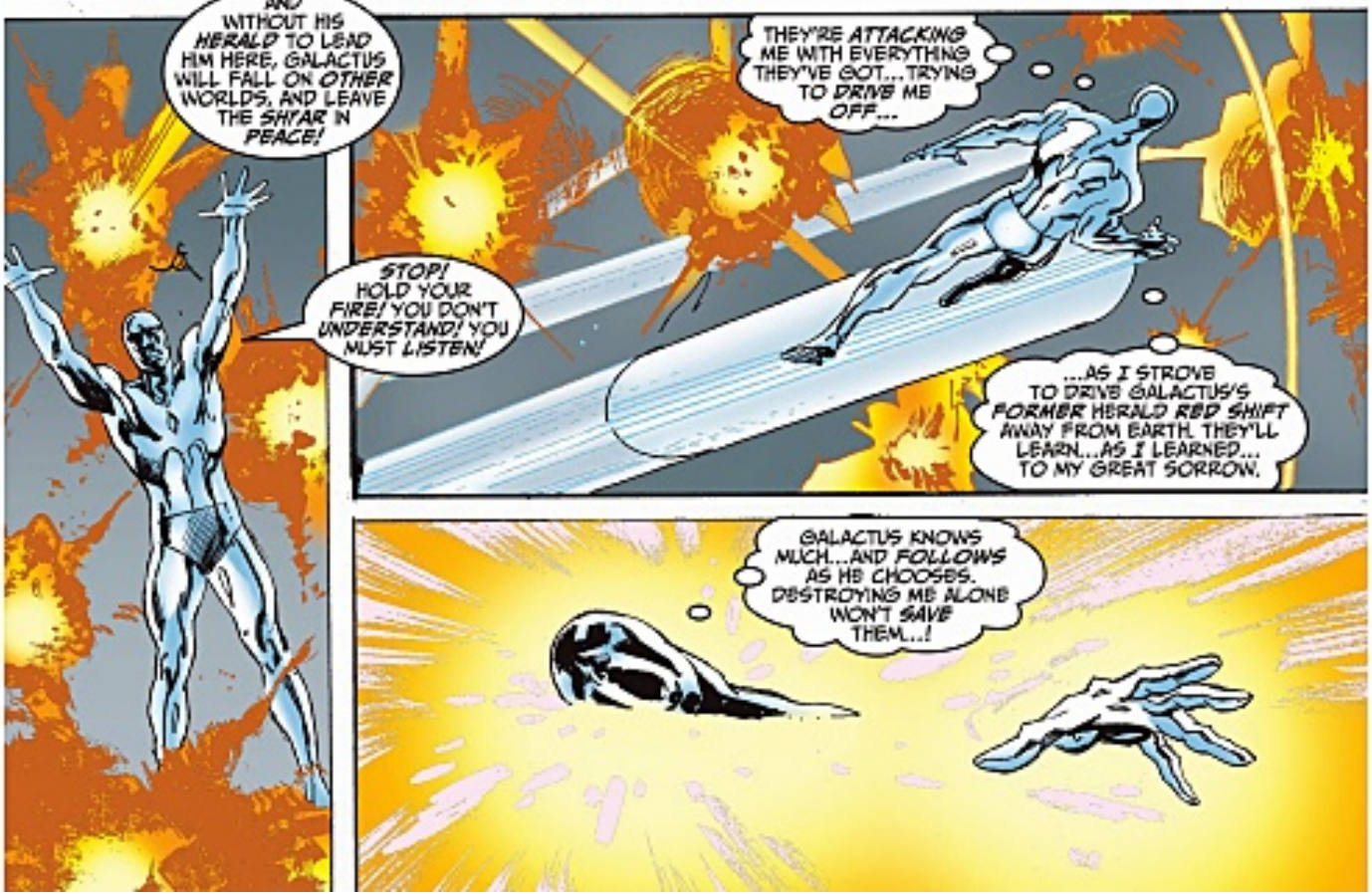
DURING THE TRIAL, THE METAPHYSICAL BEING CALLED ETERNITY REVEALED GALACTUS'S PURPOSE IN THE UNIVERSE...
...ONE SO COSMIC NONE OF US COULD RETAIN AUGHT OF IT.
NEITHER COULD WE FIGHT THE... COMPULSION TO EXONERATE RICHARDS...
...AND, BY EXTENSION, GALACTUS HIMSELF.
I ALSO VOTED TO FREE GALACTUS...TO LET HIM GO WHERE HE CHOSE, NEVER THINKING HE WOULD COME HERE!

GALACTUS HAS HIS PURPOSE... WHATEVER IT MAY BE. AS WE HAVE OURS.
WE WILL MEET HIS HERALD OVER HOMEWORLD AND DRIVE HIM FROM OUR SKIES!
WE WILL NOT LET HIM BRING THE MAD GOD HERE!
SHI'AR WARRIORS --
ATTACK!



I HAD HOPED TO COME HERE QUIETLY, TO WARN LILANDRA OF GALACTUS'S APPROACH.
BUT I SEE THE SHI'AR ARE FULLY BATTLE READY, AND I'M THEIR TARGET!
WERE THEY WARNED I WAS COMING?
NOT NECESSARILY. WORD OF GALACTUS'S ABERRATION HAS SPREAD.
FOR ALL I KNOW, THE ENTIRE GALAXY IS ARMED FOR BATTLE NOW...

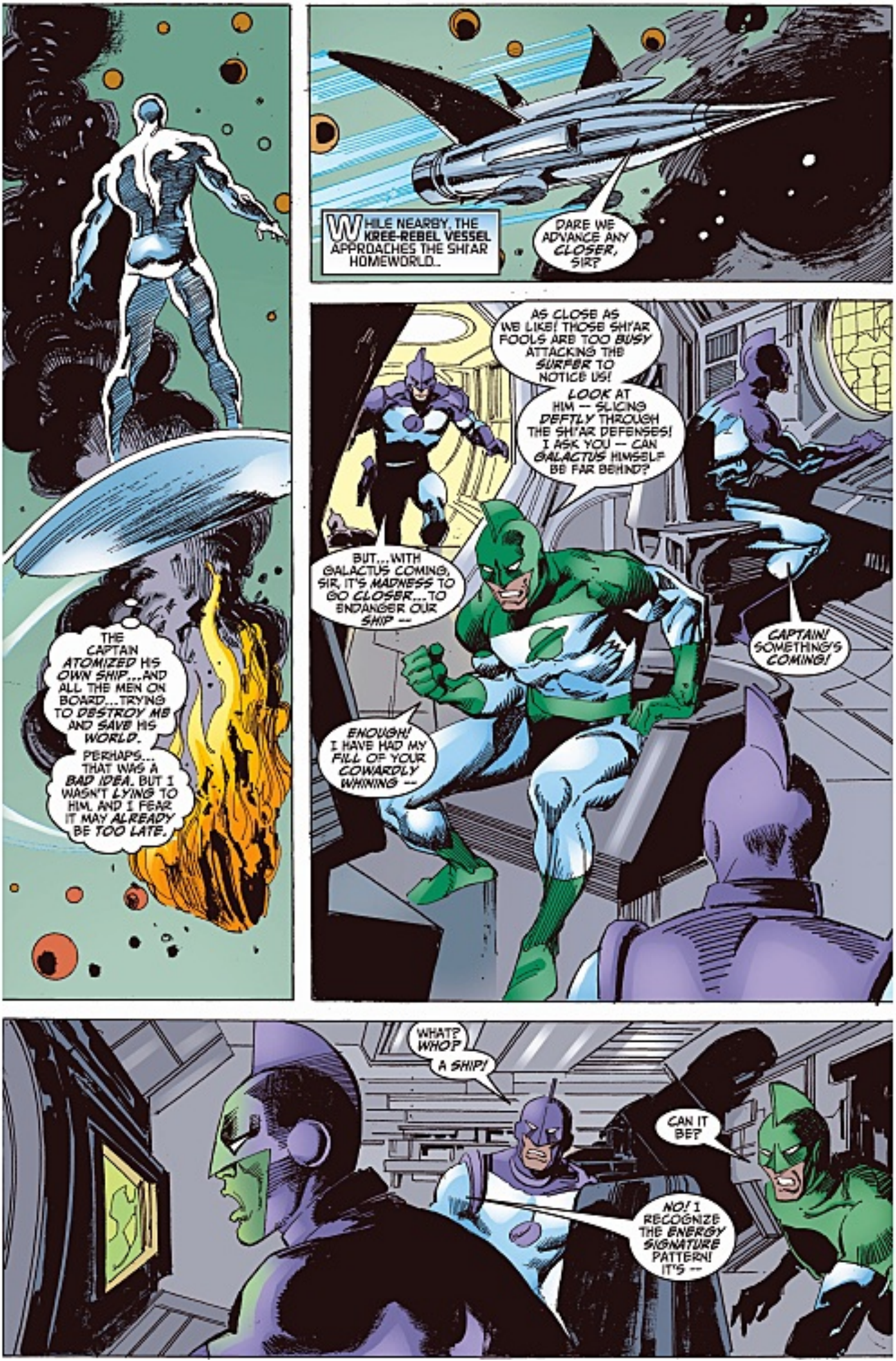
HARD TO BELIEVE THE SURFER'S TURNED TO EVIL...
...AND BOUGHT EARTH'S SAFETY WITH THE WORLDS OF OTHERS.
JUST AS WELL HE CAME TO US, THEN! WE'LL DESTROY HIM!


AND WITHOUT HIS HERALD TO LEAD HIM HERE, GALACTUS WILL FALL ON OTHER WORLDS, AND LEAVE THE SHI'AR IN PEACE!
THEY'RE ATTACKING ME WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT... TRYING TO DRIVE ME OFF...
STOP! HOLD YOUR FIRE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU MUST LISTEN!
...AS I STROVE TO DRIVE GALACTUS'S FORMER HERALD RED SHIFT AWAY FROM EARTH. THEY'LL LEARN...AS I LEARNED... TO MY GREAT SORROW.
GALACTUS KNOWS MUCH...AND FOLLOWS AS HE CHOOSES. DESTROYING ME ALONE WON'T SAVE THEM...!

IF I CAN REACH HER, MAYBE I CAN MAKE HER UNDERSTAND!
THEY'RE FORCING MY HAND...MAKING ME FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH THEM!
SOMEHOW... I HAVE TO DO IT...WITHOUT INJURING THE WARRIORS...
...AND DESTROYING THE SHIPS AND WEAPONS THEY'LL NEED TO CONFRONT THEIR TRUE ENEMY!
THEIR WEAPONS ARE INDEED POWERFUL! HOW DO I CONVINCE THEM I'M NOT THE ENEMY?
LILANDRA'S BELOW...ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE.
SHRAKTHOOOM
HE DISABLED OUR SHIP WITH A SINGLE BLAST!
SUCH INCREDIBLE POWER! CAN WE EVEN HOPE TO DEFEAT HIM?!
HE'S ONE BEING ALONE, WE ARE HUNDREDS, HE DOESN'T -:KOFF:- HAVE A PRAYER!

WHILE ON EARTH...
...I HOVERED THERE IN SPACE... FROZEN AND HORRIFIED... WATCHING...AND LISTENING... ABLE TO DO NOTHING.
GALACTUS SPARES NO BEING IN HIS PATH. WE MUST STOP HIM.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
WHILE I HOPED THE SURFER COULD TURN GALACTUS FROM THIS MANIA OF DESTRUCTION...
...I PREPARED FOR THE WORST.
I HAVE A PLAN...AND WEAPONS... THAT I HOPE WILL WORK AGAINST HIM.
THEN LET'S GO! LET'S FIND GALACTUS AND USE THEM!
LET'S FREE THE SURFER FROM HIS ONEROUS PROMISE!
EVERY HOUR...EVERY MINUTE WE LINGER HERE, ANOTHER WORLD COULD BE DESTROYED.
THERE'S...ANOTHER PROBLEM, ALICIA. I ONCE SAVED GALACTUS FROM DEATH.
THERE ARE BEINGS WHO WON'T TRUST ME TO AID THEM.
BY ODIN'S BEARD, WE WILL GIVE THEM NO CHOICE!
YOU MAY HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING ONCE, REED, IN SAVING GALACTUS...
...BUT HE HAS FINALLY OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS!
IN SPITE OF YOUR PREVIOUS CHOICE, REED...OR MAYBE BECAUSE OF IT...
...WE HUMANS, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, MUST MAKE A FINAL STAND AGAINST HIM.

WHILE ABOVE THE SH'IAR HOMEWORLD...
LILANDRA MUST BE IN THE ROYAL PALACE SINCE HER SHIPS ARE FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO BLOCK MY GOING THERE.
I COULD BLAST MY WAY THROUGH... BUT TO DISABLE MORE SH'IAR WEAPONRY WOULD BE COUNTER TO MY PURPOSE!
BUT -- WHY APPROACH THE PALACE, AT ALL... WHEN I CAN SPEAK TO HER VIA ONE OF HER SHIPS?
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR EMPRESS, THE MAJESTRIX LILANDRA!
YOURS IS THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE GALAXY!
POWERFUL ENOUGH... PERHAPS... TO TURN ASIDE GALACTUS!
CEASE FIGHTING ME... AND READY YOURSELVES TO FACE HIM!
GALACTUS WILL COME --
NOT WITHOUT YOU TO LEAD HIM HERE! I'M NOT FOOL ENOUGH TO CONTACT OUR MAJESTRIX WITH THIS DRIVEL...
...WHEN I HAVE YOU IN MY CLUTCHES AND CAN, AS EASILY, DESTROY YOU!
WHAT --?!
NO!


THE CAPTAIN ATOMIZED HIS OWN SHIP...AND ALL THE MEN ON BOARD...TRYING TO DESTROY ME AND SAVE HIS WORLD.
PERHAPS... THAT WAS A BAD IDEA. BUT I WASN'T LYING TO HIM. AND I FEAR IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.
WHILE NEARBY, THE KREE-REBEL VESSEL APPROACHES THE SHI'AR HOMEWORLD...
DARE WE ADVANCE ANY CLOSER, SIR?
AS CLOSE AS WE LIKE! THOSE SHI'AR FOOLS ARE TOO BUSY ATTACKING THE SURFER TO NOTICE US!
LOOK AT HIM — SLICING DEFTLY THROUGH THE SHI'AR DEFENSES! I ASK YOU — CAN GALACTUS HIMSELF BE FAR BEHIND?
BUT... WITH GALACTUS COMING, SIR, IT'S MADNESS TO GO CLOSER... TO ENDANGER OUR SHIP —
CAPTAIN! SOMETHING'S COMING!
ENOUGH! I HAVE HAD MY FILL OF YOUR COWARDLY WHINING —
WHAT? WHO? A SHIP!
CAN IT BE?
NO! I RECOGNIZE THE ENERGY SIGNATURE PATTERN! IT'S —

— THE STARJAMMER!
CORSAIR AND HIS CREW SPENT TIME IN THE SHI'AR SLAVE PITS! WHY COME TO THEIR AID?
THAT'S PAST HISTORY... FROM WHEN D'KEN WAS EMPEROR.
THE STARJAMMERS HELPED PUT LILANDRA ON THE SHI'AR THRONE!
THE FOOLS! ONE SHI'AR IS LIKE ANOTHER. OUR CONQUERORS HAVE EARNED THEIR DEATHS AT GALACTUS'S HANDS!

THE SURFER HAS FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH THE SPACE FORCE, CORSAIR!
SEEMS TO BE THREATENING THE IMPERIAL PALACE ITSELF.
SURELY, CH'OD, HE WOULDN'T BE FOOL ENOUGH TO ATTACK LILANDRA!
NO MORE'N HIS MASTER...WHO THREATENS EVERY BEING ON THAT, AND ANY OTHER, WORLD.
THEN, PET, WHAT SAY WE GIVE THE MAJESTRIX A HAND?

WHILE FAR BELOW...

THE SURFER IS DODGING OUR BLASTS...AND INEXORABLY APPROACHING THE PALACE.
MAJESTRIX, LET ME FIGHT HIM —!
WAIT, GLADIATOR! AND CONSIDER! WHY IS THE SURFER SO INTENT ON COMING HERE?
GALACTUS IS WEAKENED... AND HALF MAD!

BUT SURELY IT ISN'T NECESSARY THAT THE SURFER DECIMATE MY FORCES...
...OR TAKE ME PRISONER... BEFORE HIS MASTER DARES APPROACH.

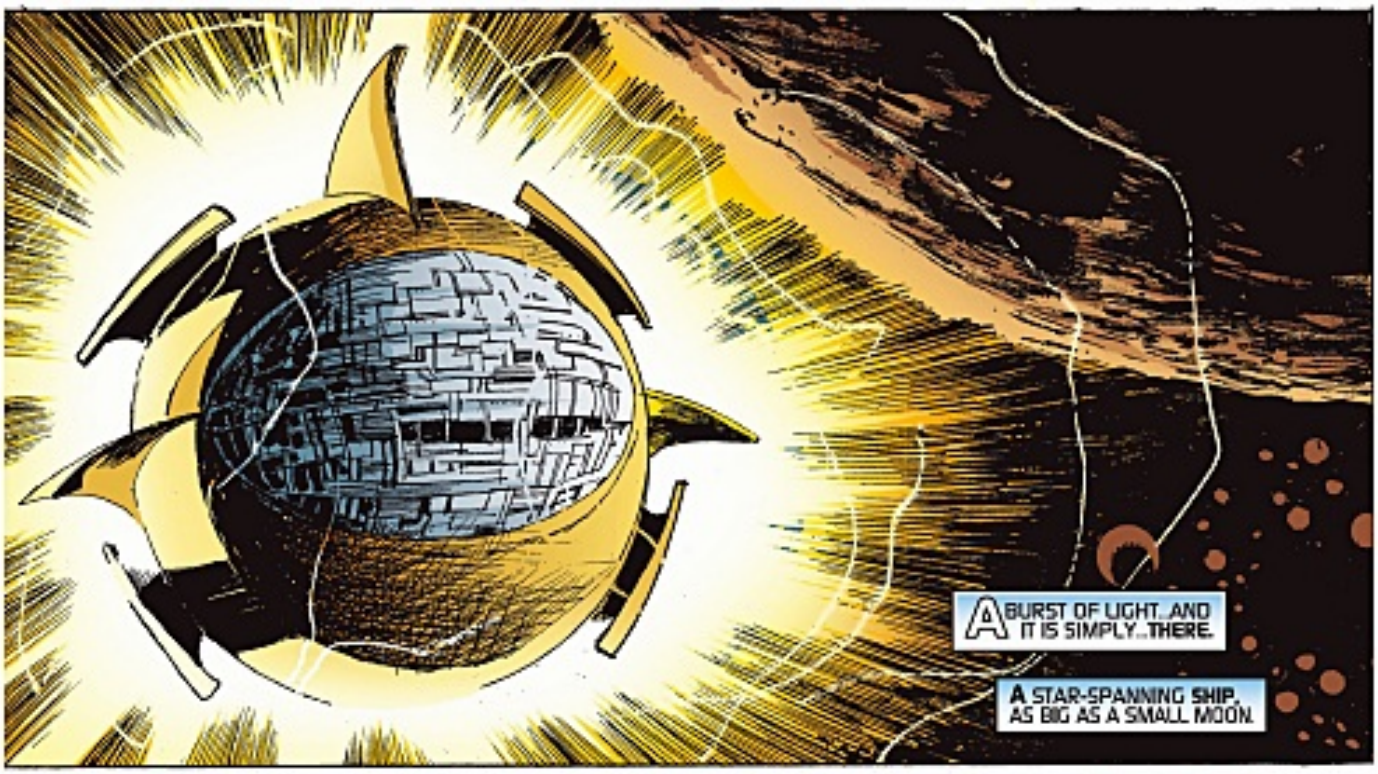
THE SH'AR ARE MIGHTY...AND THEIR WEAPONS, EFFECTIVE... AGAINST ME.
BUT AGAINST GALACTUS --?!
SHRAKK
MAJESTRIX, THE BATTLE HAS GONE ON TOO LONG AND THE SILVER SURFER IS ALMOST UPON US!
CAN GALACTUS HIMSELF BE FAR BEHIND?
YOU MUST ESCAPE THE COMING DESTRUCTION! WE HAVE PREPARED A SHIP --
NO, MY FRIENDS! I BELONG HERE WITH MY PEOPLE. WE LIVE...OR DIE... TOGETHER!
IT SEEMS...THEIR DEFENSE IS FINALLY WEAKENING.
YET I'M BEING EXHAUSTED...AND THEY'RE WASTING MUCH NEEDED ENERGY.
CAN IT BE I'M APPROACHING THIS PROBLEM --

-- THE WRONG WAY --?!
SHRAKK
THE SURFER'S DOWN! WE GOT HIM!
THE STARJAMMERS HAVE ARRIVED TO LEND US THEIR SUPPORT! WE ARE BLESSED IN OUR ALLIES.
RETRIEVE THE BODY OF THE SILVER SURFER, GLADIATOR...AND BRING IT HERE TO ME!

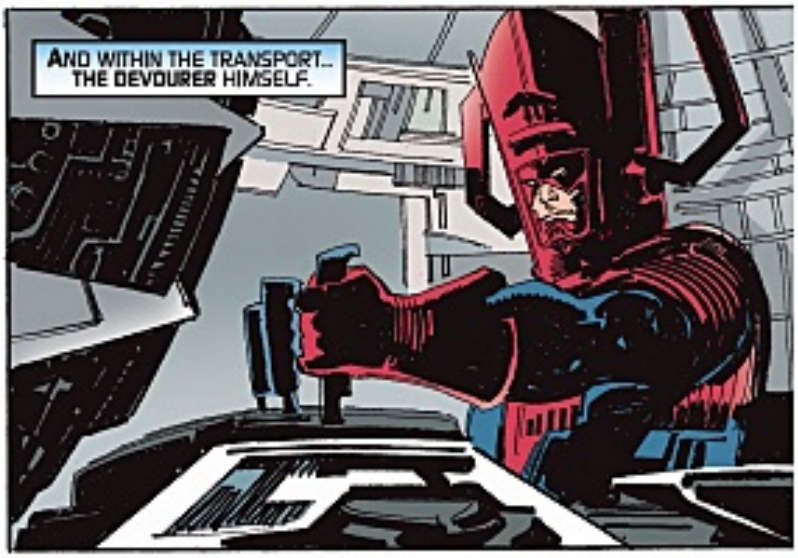
WHILE ON EARTH...
WHAT'RE THOSE, REED?
I FOLLOWED GALACTUS EARLIER, REED. LET ME LEAD YOU!
NOT A CHANCE, BABE. REED'S SENSORS CAN TRACK GALACTUS AS EASY AS YOU CAN.
IT DON'T MAKE SENSE... WASTE YOUR SUIT'S ENERGY WHEN YOU CAN GO FARTHER AND FASTER... AN' GO IN STYLE!
COMMUNICATION AND TRACKING DEVICES. IF ANY OF US GO DOWN, I WANT THE OTHERS TO BE ABLE TO FIND THEM!
YOU'RE ALL WEARING REED'S TRACKERS?
YEAH, YA KNOW, CAP, I FEEL WAY OUT OF MY DEPTH HERE. I MEAN... THIS MAY BE OLD STUFF TO YOU GUYS.
BUT... WE'RE TALKING GALACTUS... AND THE LIFE AND DEATH OF WORLDS.
JOIN THE CLUB, FIRESTAR.
IN THE PRESENCE OF GALACTUS, WE'RE ALL OUT OF OUR DEPTH!
AND ON THAT UPBEAT NOTE...
...WHAT D'YOU SAY WE GET THIS SHOW...
...ON THE ROAD?!

AND ON HOMEWORLD...
THE SURFER IS ALIVE?
HOW WOULD ANY OF US KNOW?
WHAT DOES ALIVE EVEN MEAN TO A BEING SUCH AS THIS?
WE'VE STOPPED THE HERALD.
WOULD THAT WE COULD THWART HIS MASTER AS EASILY.
EASILY?!
I FEARED JUST SUCH A TRICK! MAJESTRIX, GET BACK! LET ME --!

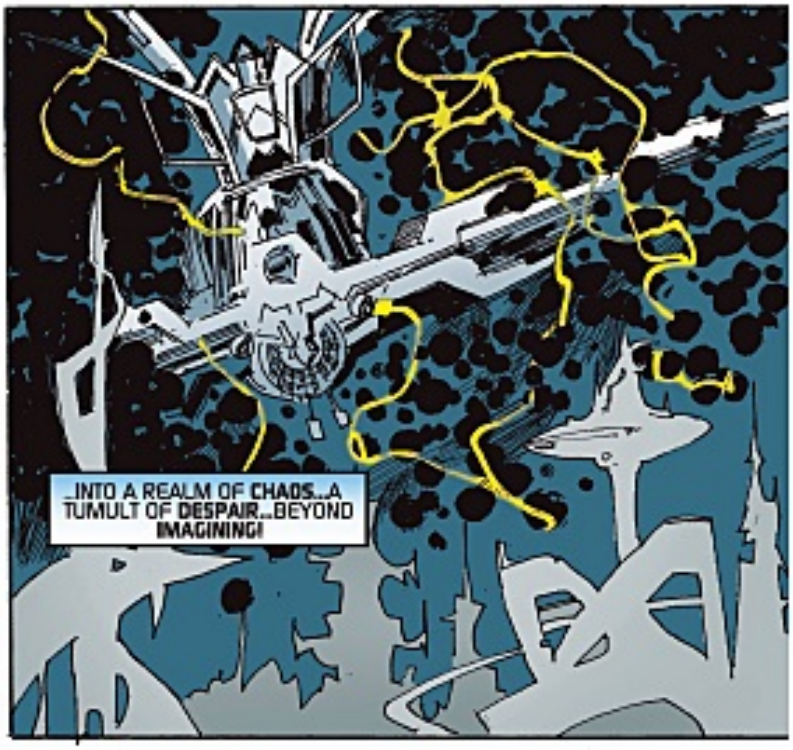
GLADIATOR -- NO! I FORBID IT!
LILANDRA IS WISE, GLADIATOR! I KNOW YOUR VULNERABILITY...
...AND COULD FELL YOU EASILY... WITH A SPECIFICALLY TUNED BURST OF RADIATION!
BUT I WISH TO SUSTAIN YOUR STRENGTH FOR FIGHTING YOUR TRUE ENEMY.
IF YOU WISH TO BEFRIEND THE SHI'AR, HERALD... WHY LEAD YOUR MASTER HERE?
WHILE FAR OVERHEAD, IN THE KREE-REBEL VESSEL...
LOOK! THERE! ON THE SCREEN!
BECAUSE, MAJESTRIX -- YOURS IS THE MOST POWERFUL AND SOPHISTICATED EMPIRE IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.
IF THE SHI'AR CAN'T STOP GALACTUS, THIS GALAXY IS WELL AND TRULY LOST!
GALACTUS!
SUCH UNMITIGATED POWER! WHAT... WHAT HORROR HAVE WE UNLEASHED UPON THAT WORLD?


A BURST OF LIGHT. AND IT IS SIMPLY...THERE.
A STAR-SPANNING SHIP, AS BIG AS A SMALL MOON.

AND IN THE SHIP IS A SPECIALLY DESIGNED TRANSPORT...


AND WITHIN THE TRANSPORT... THE DEVOURER HIMSELF.

THROUGH THE PEACE AND SOLITARY SILENCE OF SPACE HE DESCENDS..


...INTO A REALM OF CHAOS...A TUMULT OF DESPAIR...BEYOND IMAGINING!

I LED MY MASTER HERE, YET FAILED TO WARN YOU IN TIME.
I CAUSED YOU TO WASTE YOUR FORCES FIGHTING ME.
...AND I FEAR...I HAVE DOOMED YOU ALL.
HE'S GOT A POINT, LILANDRA.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, HOMEWORLD'S AERIAL COMBAT UNITS ARE IN DISARRAY...
...AND ITS LAND-BASED WEAPONS ARE USELESS AGAINST THAT SHIP.
SURELY YOU'VE HELD BACK SOME SUPER WEAPON...?
SOME SECRET AND DESTRUCTIVE FORCE RESERVED FOR YOUR MOST DESPERATE HOUR...?
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS MAD DESTRUCTION IS TO DESTROY GALACTUS.
AND IT'S OBVIOUS...THE SHI'AR -- FOR ALL THEIR POWER -- CAN'T DO IT ALONE.
I HAVE GONE ONLY SO FAR IN MY ATTEMPT TO STOP GALACTUS! MUST I NOW GO EVEN FURTHER?
TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST MY MASTER... TO BREAK MY OATH... AND FAIL...WOULD DOOM THE EARTH.
YET HOW CAN I STAND BY...AND WATCH THESE MILLIONS DIE?
YOU HAVE A SECRET WEAPON AGAINST GALACTUS, MAJESTRIX!
YOU HAVE ME!

AND.... YOU HAVE THEM!
WHO —?
EARTH'S GREATEST HEROES...! THE AVENGERS...
...AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR! AMONG THEM, REED RICHARDS...ONE OF THE FINEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS IN THE UNIVERSE!
RICHARDS?! THE MAN WHO SAVED GALACTUS! HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE ON HOMEWORLD...
...WHEN IT'S YOUR FAULT OUR WORLD IS THREATENED?!
HAVE YOU COME HERE TO GLOAT, RICHARDS?
TO "SCIENTIFICALLY" STUDY OUR DESTRUCTION... WHILE YOUR OWN WORLD IS SAFE?

SILENCE, GLADIATOR! CEASE SNEERING AT THAT WHICH YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
REED RICHARDS, FOR ALL HIS MISPLACED COMPASSION, IS A MAN OF HONOR.
DESPITE ALL ODDS, SOMETIMES EVEN AGAINST ALL WISDOM, HE DOES WHAT HE BELIEVES IS RIGHT.
REED, I'M SORRY. I COULDN'T DO IT. TRADE HUMANITY... YOUR LIVES... FOR THE LIVES OF A THOUSAND WORLDS.
NOR COULD WE LET YOU, MY FRIEND! YOU NO LONGER SERVE GALACTUS?
HE SERVES GALACTUS BEST WHO SAVES HIM FROM HIMSELF!
AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT... IS THROUGH HIS DEATH.

REED RICHARDS... HAVE YOU A PLAN THAT WILL HELP ME SAVE MY PEOPLE?
NEXT ISSUE:
FINALE!

MARVEL COMICS
DOUBLE-SIZED SPECTACULAR!
#6
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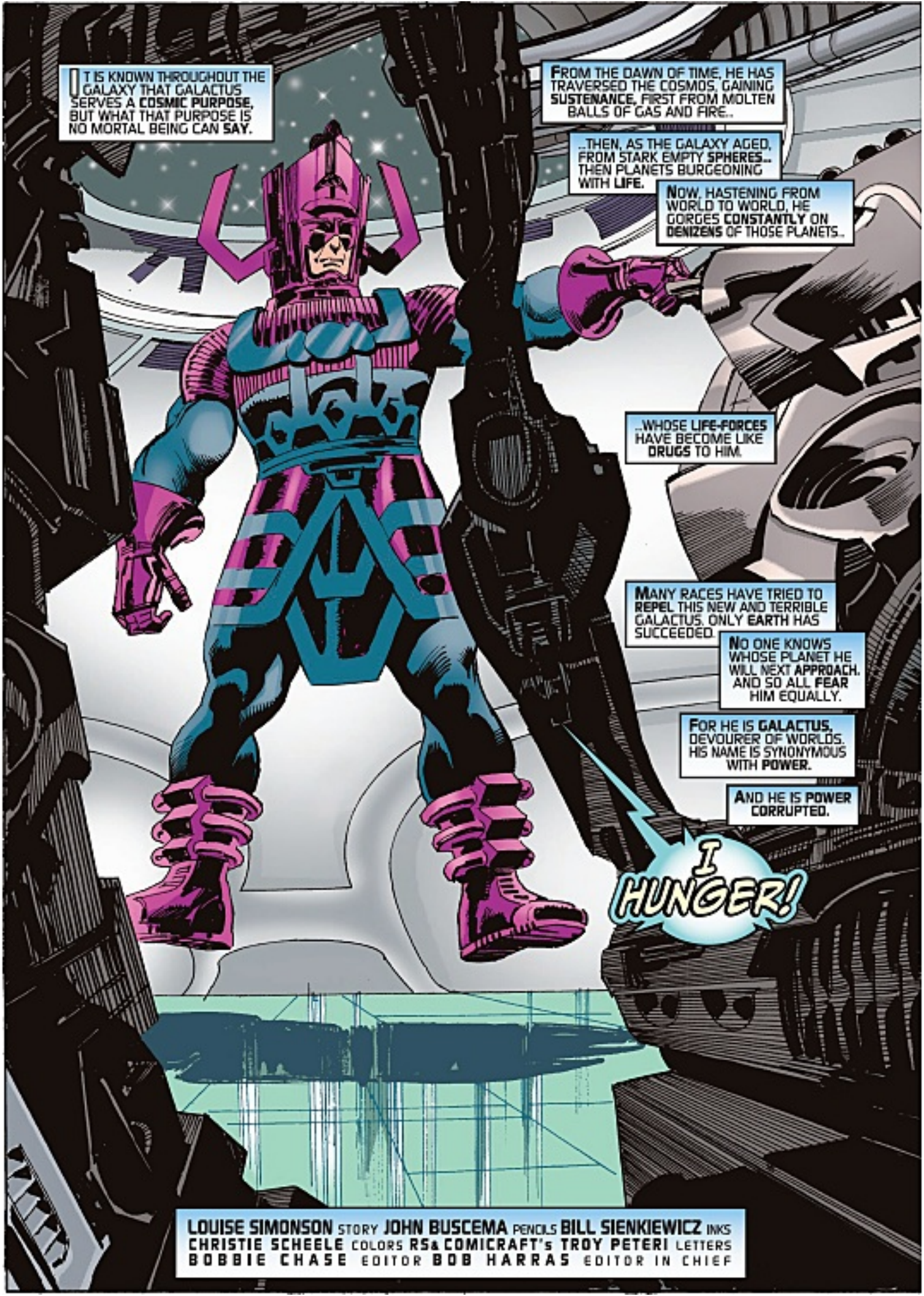
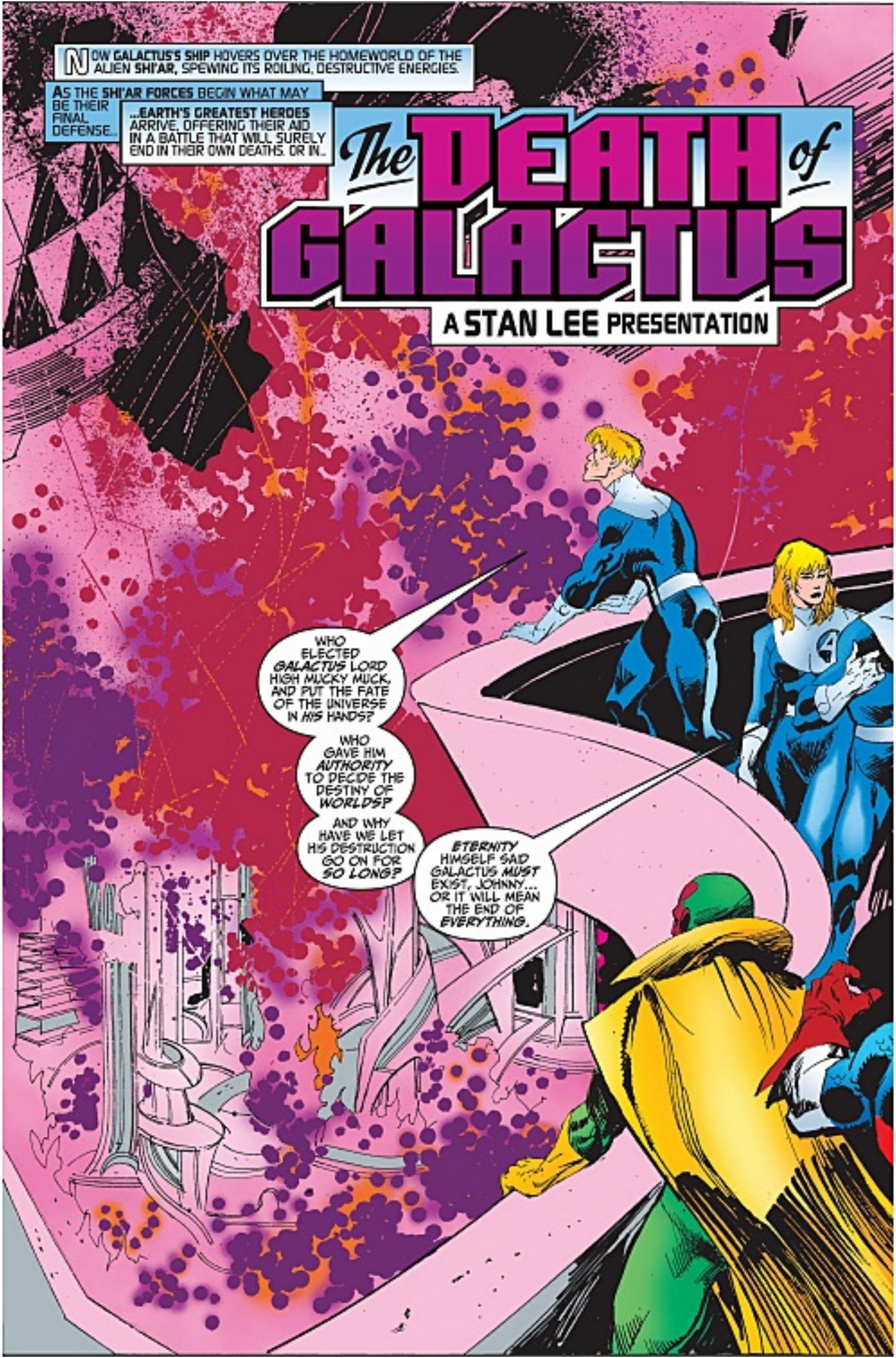
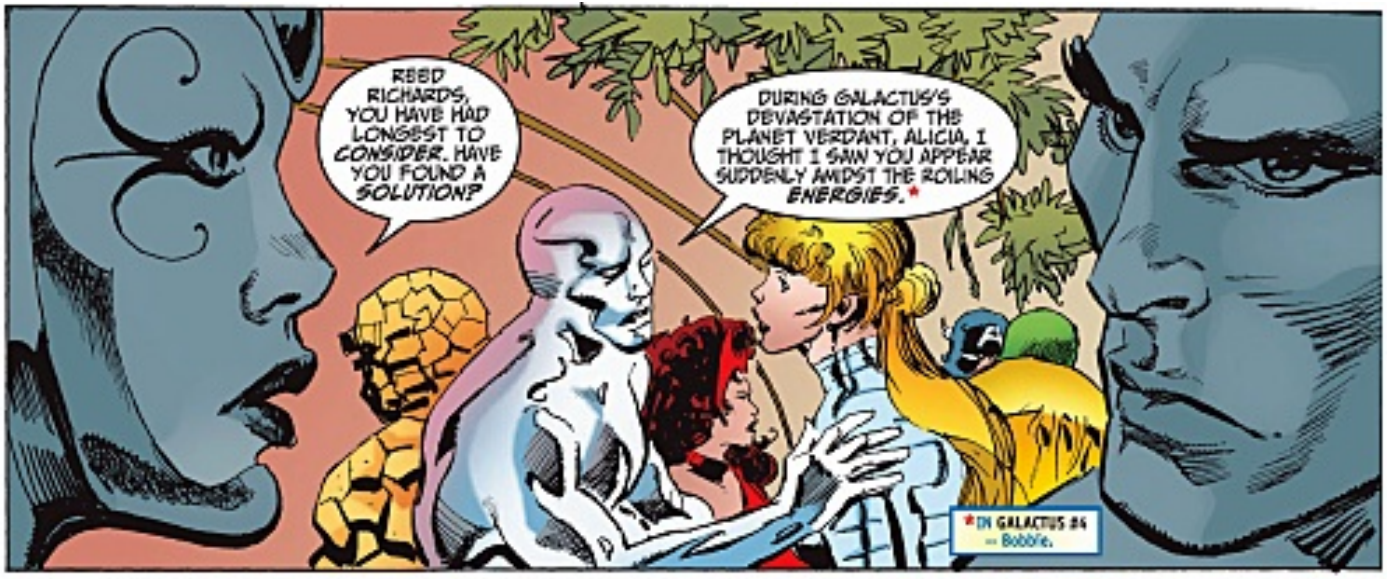
THE DEATH OF
GALACTUS
THE DEVOURER
SIMONSON
BUSCEMA
SIENKIEWICZ
60 YEARS OF SUPER HEROES


IT IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY THAT GALACTUS SERVES A COSMIC PURPOSE, BUT WHAT THAT PURPOSE IS NO MORTAL BEING CAN SAY.
FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, HE HAS TRAVERSED THE COSMOS, GAINING SUSTENANCE, FIRST FROM MOLTEN BALLS OF GAS AND FIRE..
..THEN, AS THE GALAXY AGED, FROM STARK EMPTY SPHERES... THEN PLANETS BURGEONING WITH LIFE.
NOW, HASTENING FROM WORLD TO WORLD, HE GORGES CONSTANTLY ON DENIZENS OF THOSE PLANETS..
...WHOSE LIFE-FORCES HAVE BECOME LIKE DRUGS TO HIM.
MANY RACES HAVE TRIED TO REPEL THIS NEW AND TERRIBLE GALACTUS. ONLY EARTH HAS SUCCEEDED.
NO ONE KNOWS WHOSE PLANET HE WILL NEXT APPROACH. AND SO ALL FEAR HIM EQUALLY.
FOR HE IS GALACTUS, DEVOURER OF WORLDS. HIS NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH POWER.
AND HE IS POWER CORRUPTED.
I HUNGER!
LOUISE SIMONSON STORY JOHN BUSCEMA PENCILS BILL SIENKIEWICZ INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS RS& COMICRAFT's TROY PETERI LETTERS
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF


NOW GALACTUS'S SHIP HOVERS OVER THE HOMEWORLD OF THE ALIEN SHI'AR, SPEWING ITS ROILING, DESTRUCTIVE ENERGIES.
AS THE SHI'AR FORCES BEGIN WHAT MAY BE THEIR FINAL DEFENSE...
...EARTH'S GREATEST HEROES ARRIVE, OFFERING THEIR AID IN A BATTLE THAT WILL SURELY END IN THEIR OWN DEATHS. OR IN...
The DEATH of GALACTUS
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION
WHO ELECTED GALACTUS LORD HIGH MUCKY MUCK, AND PUT THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IN HIS HANDS?
WHO GAVE HIM AUTHORITY TO DECIDE THE DESTINY OF WORLDS?
AND WHY HAVE WE LET HIS DESTRUCTION GO ON FOR SO LONG?
ETERNITY HIMSELF SAID GALACTUS MUST EXIST, JOHNNY... OR IT WILL MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING.

THE BATTLE ROSTER READS LIKE A WHO'S WHO OF CONSUMMATE CHAMPIONS. THEY ARE --
THE SILVER SURFER...ONCE GALACTUS'S WELL-LOVED HERALD...NOW, HIS RELUCTANT ENEMY.
MY OLD MASTER... AND HIS RAVENING, UNSTOPPABLE HUNGER... NOW THREATEN TO BECOME THAT END, REED.
THE SHI'AR EMPRESS LILANDRA; GLADIATOR, PRAETOR OF HER IMPERIAL GUARD; AND THE EX-SPACE PIRATES KNOWN AS THE STARJAMMERS.
EARTH'S MIGHTY AVENGERS... AND THE FAMILY OF HEROES KNOWN AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
HE ENDANGERS ALL OF US. THE QUESTION IS... HOW ARE WE GOING TO STOP HIM?


REED RICHARDS, YOU HAVE HAD LONGEST TO CONSIDER. HAVE YOU FOUND A SOLUTION?
DURING GALACTUS'S DEVASTATION OF THE PLANET VERDANT, ALICIA, I THOUGHT I SAW YOU APPEAR SUDDENLY AMIDST THE ROILING ENERGIES.*
*IN GALACTUS #4 — Bobbie.

I...WAS THERE.
YOU'D BECOME GALACTUS'S HERALD ONCE AGAIN...BOUGHT EARTH'S SAFETY WITH YOUR FREEDOM...
...HOPING TO TURN GALACTUS FROM HIS MADNESS.
I HAD TO KNOW, AND SO I FOLLOWED YOU... AND WITNESSED THAT DESTRUCTION.
I SAW THEN THERE WAS NOTHING YOU...OR ANYONE... COULD DO TO STOP GALACTUS!
YOU LOOKED AT ME...LIKE YOU COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE SIGHT OF ME.
IT...WASN'T THAT. NEVER THAT! I ONLY KNEW...I HAD TO RETURN TO EARTH.
BRING HELP. WHETHER YOU WANTED HELP OR NOT.

SORRY, SURFER. I TRIED TA KEEP ALICIA SAFE ON EARTH LIKE I PROMISED, BUT --
A PROMISE YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO MAKE, BEN.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD PURPOSE. NOW THIS ARMOR, WITH ITS ALIEN NANO-TECHNOLOGY, HAS GIVEN ME POWER.

I HAVE THE RIGHT...THE DUTY...TO USE IT TO SERVE A GREATER GOOD.
I UNDERSTAND YOU BOTH WANT TO KEEP ME SAFE, AS I'D KEEP YOU SAFE IF I COULD.
BUT THAT WOULDN'T SAVE THE UNIVERSE --
BRAVO!

I SAY IT IS YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE...AND DIE...AS YOU CHOOSE!
MANTIS --?! I THOUGHT...I FEARED --
-- I WAS SLAIN?
AND MY THREAT TO BE YOUR ENEMY UNLESS YOU OPPOSED GALACTUS STILL MOVED YOU!
THEY PERSIST IN THINKING US DELICATE...DO THEY NOT? BY NOW, THEY SHOULD KNOW US BETTER.
THIS ONE'S NAME IS MANTIS.
I-I'M ALICIA. I...HEARD...YOU'RE THE COSMIC MADONNA, AREN'T YOU? NORRIN'S FRIEND. ONCE AN AVENGER?
WE ARE ALL MANY THINGS TO MANY BEINGS, ARE WE NOT?
I'M...PLEASED TO MEET YOU!
ODDLY ENOUGH...I AM. I SAW HER IN NORRIN'S ARMS OVER THAT DESTROYED WORLD... WATCHED HER... DISAPPEAR.
WHATEVER SHE WAS TO NORRIN...WHATEVER SHE CONTINUES TO BE...SHE'S SO JOYOUS, SO FILLED WITH LIFE, I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE HER.
MANTIS WARNED THE SHI'AR OF GALACTUS'S CURRENT MADNESS.
BECAUSE OF HER WARNING, WE SAW THE SURFER COMING, AND WE WERE PREPARED.*
THIS ONE HAS TRAVELED TO OTHER WORLDS, AS WELL...
* Last Issue -- Bobbie.

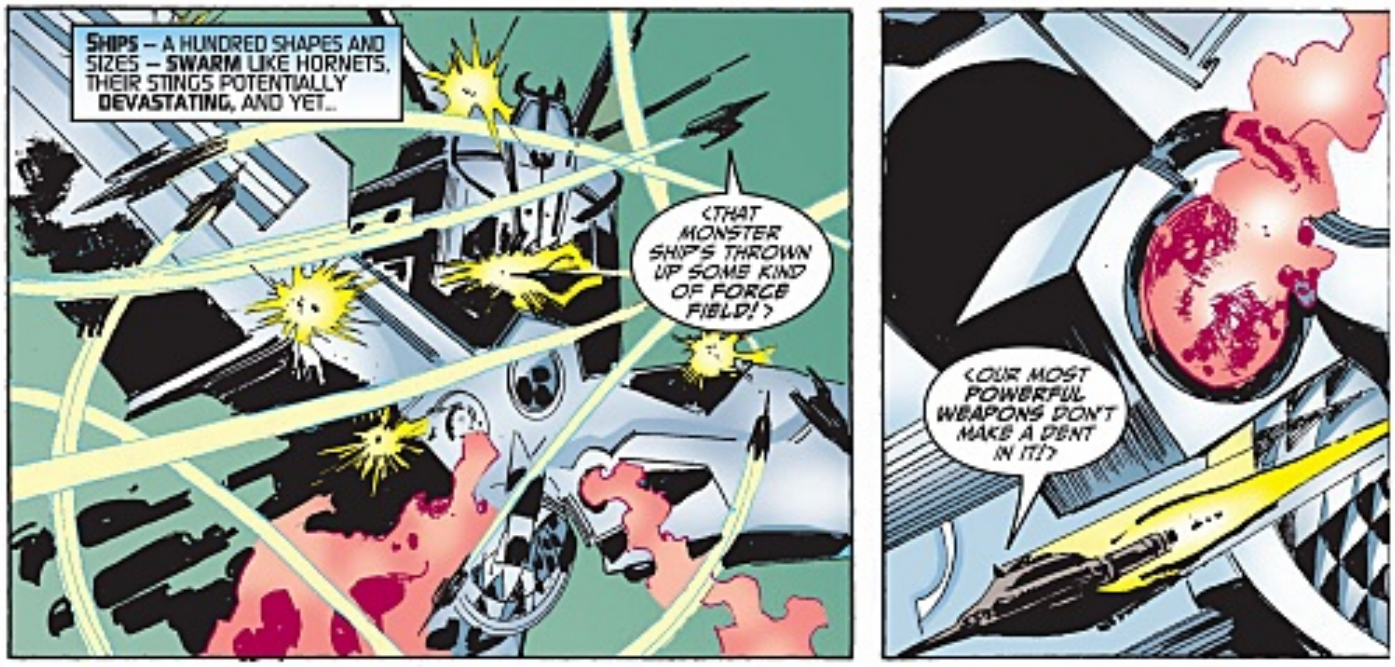
...AND HAS BROUGHT MORE *REINFORCEMENTS*... THEIR BEST *FIGHTERS*... THEIR MOST POWERFUL *WEAPONS*.
WE VARIED DENIZENS OF THIS UNIVERSE *KNOW* THAT ALL MUST BAND *TOGETHER* TO STOP GALACTUS...
...OR WE FALL *SEPARATELY*.
THIS ONE HAS *BROUGHT* THEM, LILANDRA, BUT THEY ARE *YOURS* TO COMMAND!

I YIELD COMMAND TO *YOU*, REED RICHARDS...
...AS THE MASTER *INVENTOR* AND *TACTICIAN*, WHO MORE THAN ONCE HAS DRIVEN GALACTUS FROM YOUR WORLD.
I MUST *ADDRESS* THESE WARRIORS *QUICKLY*, THEN! WE HAVEN'T ANY TIME TO LOSE!

SOON...
...WE KNOW GALACTUS IS ATTACKING *SENTIENT BEINGS* SPECIFICALLY...
...THOUGH THE *LIFE-FORCE* HE INGESTS DOES LITTLE TO REPLENISH HIS VAST EXPENDITURES OF *ENERGY* OR ASSUAGE HIS *HUNGER*.
THERE IS NO PERIOD OF *REST* BETWEEN HIS ATTACKS NOW. ONLY CONSTANT *FEEDING*...
...AND A SERIES OF DESTROYED *WORLDS*, OUR UNIVERSE IS NO LONGER *SAFE*.
MAJESTRIX... IS IT *WISE* TO YIELD PRECEDENCE TO *RICHARDS*, OF ALL BEINGS...

...THE MAN WHO ONCE *SAVED* GALACTUS'S *LIFE*?!
ALL THOSE *WARRIORS* HAVE COME TO THE SH'IAR'S AID, GLADIATOR, *KNOWING*, AS I KNOW...
...THAT WE MUST PUT ALL DIFFERENCES ASIDE...AND DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO *INSURE* OUR *MUTUAL SURVIVAL*.

WE ON EARTH REALIZED THE PERIL TO THE UNIVERSE.
THE SILVER SURFER BOUGHT US TIME TO PREPARE.
WE'VE COME, AS YOU HAVE, WITH WEAPONRY AND A PLAN WE HOPE WILL SAVE US ALL.
IN THE SKY BEFORE YOU, DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY POURS LIKE ACID FROM GALACTUS'S SHIP.
ATTACK THE SHIP — NOW! WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE!

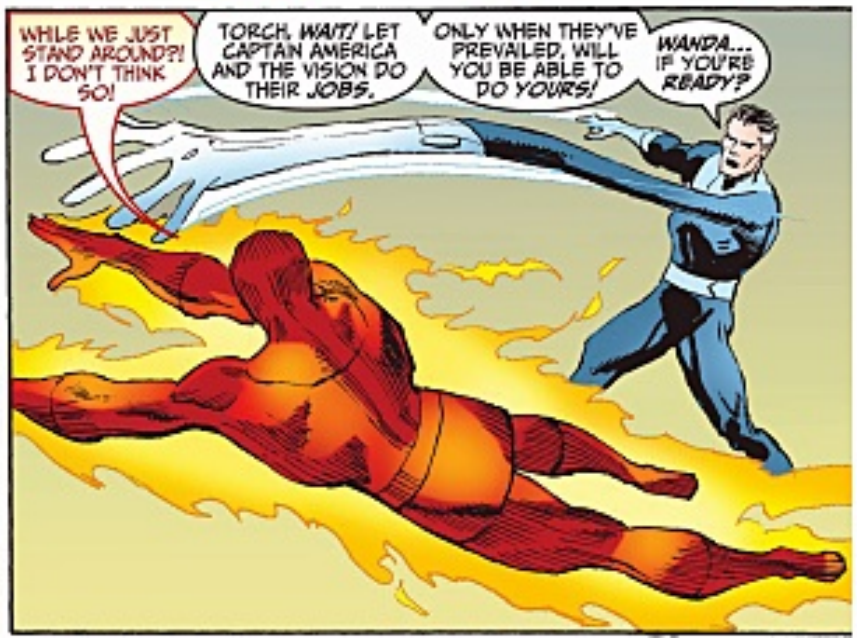

SHIPS — A HUNDRED SHAPES AND SIZES — SWARM LIKE HORNETS, THEIR STINGS POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING, AND YET...
<THAT MONSTER SHIP'S THROWN UP SOME KIND OF FORCE FIELD!>
<OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS DON'T MAKE A DENT IN IT!>

REED WAS RIGHT, VISION. GALACTUS'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THIS DEVASTATING ATTACK WAS TO ACTIVATE A FORCE FIELD.
A FIELD WHICH ENCAPSULATES THE DESTRUCTIVE ENERGIES, CAP...KEEPING THEM AWAY FROM THE CITY BELOW.
NEXT STEP'S UP TO US...! LET'S HOPE IT WORKS!
GOOD THING LIL ORDERED THE CAPITAL EVACUATED, CORSAIR!
THE CITY'S LILANDRA'S LOOKOUT, HEPZIBAH!
OURS IS TO JOIN THE FIGHT OVERHEAD!

ENERGY SIPHONS ARE SPUTTERING TO A STOP NOW.
GOOD SIGN. REED SPECULATES THAT MAINTAINING A FORCE FIELD AGAINST THAT CONSTANT AND POWERFUL ATTACK...
...MIGHT STRAIN EVEN GALACTUS...GIVEN HIS CURRENT WEAKENED STATE.

IF WE CAN DISRUPT THE FIELD, WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE. IF NOT --
GALACTUS HASN'T HAD TO FACE A COALITION LIKE THIS BEFORE!
IF WE CAN'T STOP HIM...I ALMOST THINK HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!

WHEN WE FACED GALACTUS'S SHIP ON EARTH, WE LEARNED THAT IT'S VULNERABLE TO AN OVERLOAD OF ITS OWN ENERGIES.
I'VE CREATED A SERIES OF DEVICES THAT WILL CLOG THE SHIP'S ENERGY SIPHONS.
AS SOON AS THE FORCE FIELD IS DOWN, WE'LL DEPLOY THEM!


WHILE WE JUST STAND AROUND?! I DON'T THINK SO!
TORCH, WAIT! LET CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE VISION DO THEIR JOBS.
ONLY WHEN THEY'VE PREVAILED, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DO YOURS!
WANDA... IF YOU'RE READY?

STANDING ON THE EDGE OF THE BALCONY, THE SCARLET WITCH GESTURES...
...USING HER INNATE CONTROL OF CHAOS ENERGY TO ENCOURAGE A WEAKNESS IN THE FORCE FIELD OF THE GIANT SHIP AS IT HOVERS ABOVE.
...INFLUENCE THE PROBABILITIES... FIND THE SLIGHTEST IMPERFECTION WITHIN THE FIELD... AUGMENT ITS EFFECT...
WANDA'S HARD AT WORK. SPOT ANY WEAKNESS?
NOTHING YET!
YES! THERE! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
I'LL GET ON THE HORN... TELL THE OTHERS TO HIT IT WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT!

ABOARD THE SHIPS OF VARIOUS ALIEN RACES...
WE'VE REGISTERED THE POINT OF WEAKNESS, CAPTAIN!
...COORDINATE OUR FIRE...
...A DIRECT, PINPOINT ATTACK!
...EVERY WEAPON AT OUR DISPOSAL!
LET GALACTUS FEEL OUR BITE!
ON YOUR COMMAND!
NOW!
FORCE FIELD'S HEATING UP! KEEP HITTING IT...WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE!
WE'RE THROUGH!
PULL BACK! PULL BACK!

BOOM

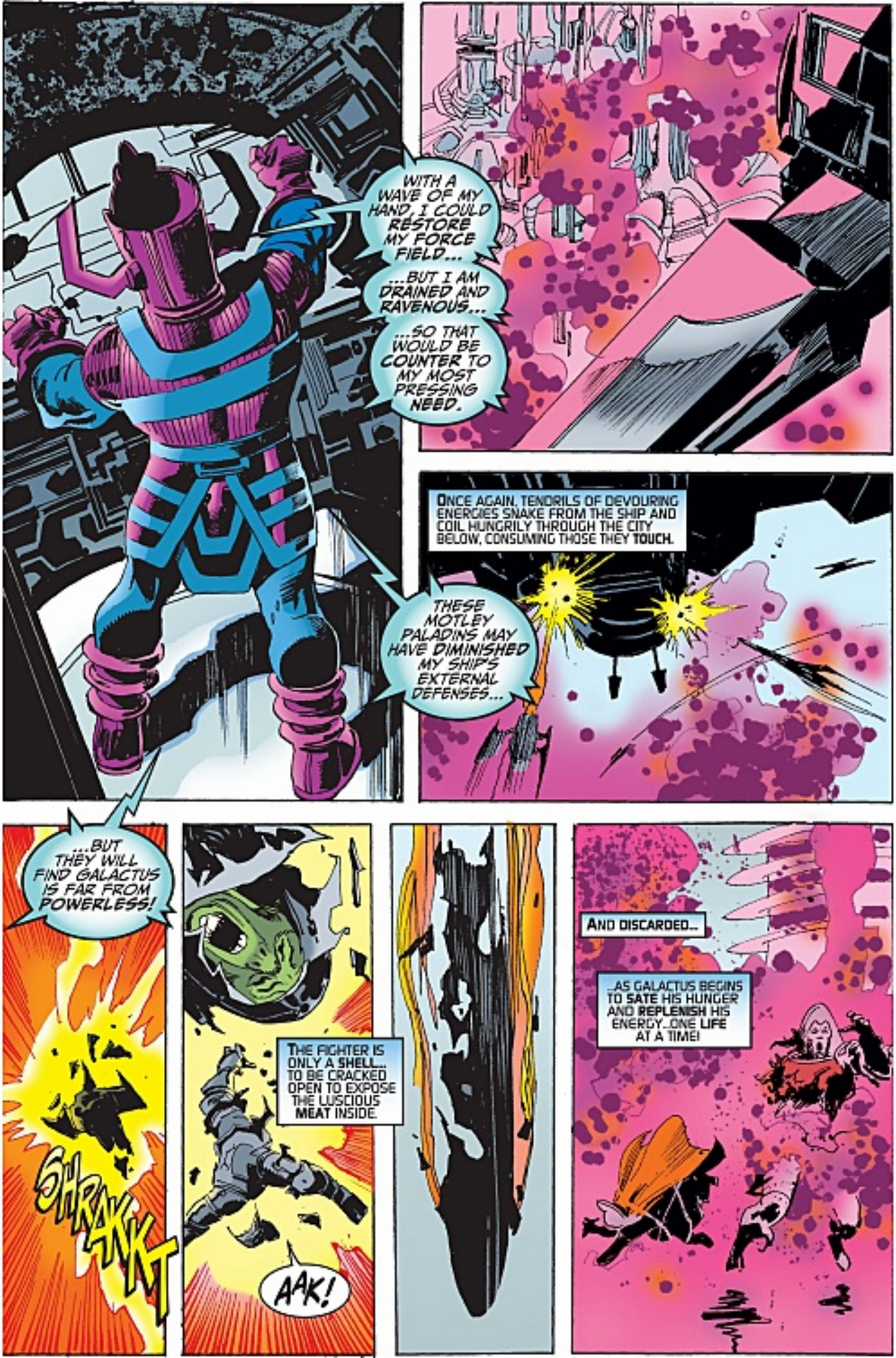
SOME SHIPS HAVE ALREADY TURNED ASIDE IN A DESPERATE RACE TO ESCAPE THE FLASH ZONE!
FORCE FIELD'S DOWN!
SO ARE WE --!

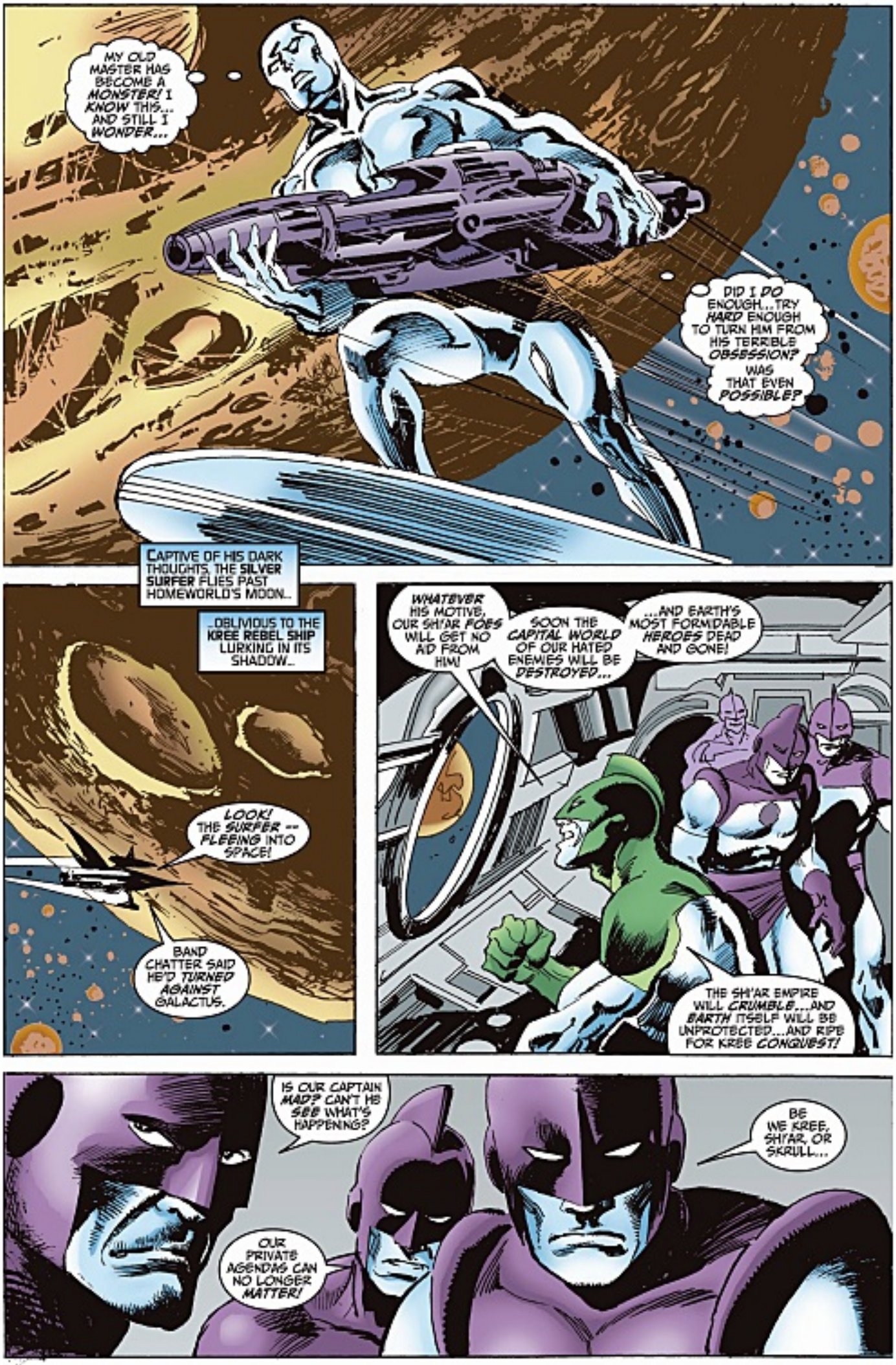
SUE RICHARDS, THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, THROWS UP A PROTECTIVE FORCE SHIELD. AND THE ENERGY CRESTS OVER THE RESERVES.
CAP AND THE VISION WERE CLOSE -- TOO CLOSE, I FEAR!
AS WERE THE STARJAMMERS!
THEY BOUGHT US A CHANCE. AS SOON AS THE ENERGY WAVE'S PAST, WE'LL USE IT!

THE LUCKY...THE FEW...MAY EVEN SURVIVE.
DIDN'T PULL OUT IN TIME!
HOLD ON, CREW! WE'RE GOING DOWN!

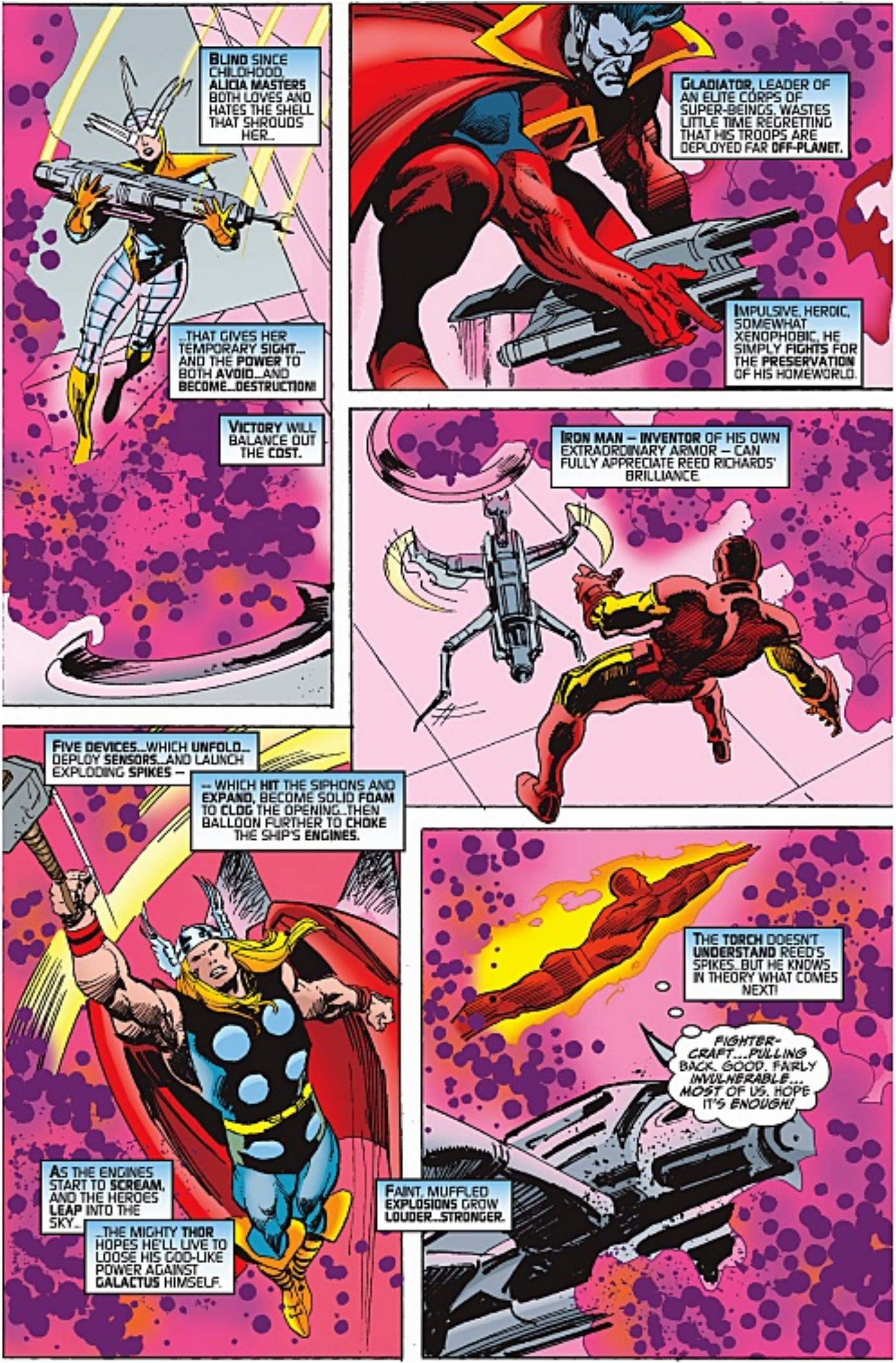
MANY WILL NOT!
WE DIE... VICTORIOUS!
WE FACE... ANCESTORS... WITH PRIDE...!

GALACTUS'S PROTECTIVE FIELD IS DOWN! THE HEROES BELOW CAN TAKE THE NEXT STEP!
WHILE MY MISSION IS IN SPACE...WHERE I ALONE CAN DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!


WITH A WAVE OF MY HAND, I COULD RESTORE MY FORCE FIELD...
...BUT I AM DRAINED AND RAVENOUS...
...SO THAT WOULD BE COUNTER TO MY MOST PRESSING NEED.
ONCE AGAIN, TENDRILS OF DEVOURING ENERGIES SNAKE FROM THE SHIP AND COIL HUNGRILY THROUGH THE CITY BELOW, CONSUMING THOSE THEY TOUCH.
THESE MOTLEY PALADINS MAY HAVE DIMINISHED MY SHIP'S EXTERNAL DEFENSES...
...BUT THEY WILL FIND GALACTUS IS FAR FROM POWERLESS!
SHRAK
THE FIGHTER IS ONLY A SHELL... TO BE CRACKED OPEN TO EXPOSE THE LUSCIOUS MEAT INSIDE.
AAK!
AND DISCARDED...
...AS GALACTUS BEGINS TO SATE HIS HUNGER AND REPLENISH HIS ENERGY...ONE LIFE AT A TIME!


MY OLD MASTER HAS BECOME A MONSTER! I KNOW THIS... AND STILL I WONDER...
DID I DO ENOUGH...TRY HARD ENOUGH TO TURN HIM FROM HIS TERRIBLE OBSESSION? WAS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
CAPTIVE OF HIS DARK THOUGHTS, THE SILVER SURFER FLIES PAST HOMEWORLD'S MOON...
...OBLIVIOUS TO THE KREE REBEL SHIP LURKING IN ITS SHADOW...
LOOK! THE SURFER -- FLEEING INTO SPACE!
BAND CHATTER SAID HE'D TURNED AGAINST GALACTUS.
WHATEVER HIS MOTIVE, OUR SHI'AR FOES WILL GET NO AID FROM HIM!
SOON THE CAPITAL WORLD OF OUR HATED ENEMIES WILL BE DESTROYED...
...AND EARTH'S MOST FORMIDABLE HEROES DEAD AND GONE!
THE SHI'AR EMPIRE WILL CRUMBLE...AND EARTH ITSELF WILL BE UNPROTECTED...AND RIPE FOR KREE CONQUEST!
IS OUR CAPTAIN MAD? CAN'T HE SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING?
BE HE KREE, SHI'AR, OR SKRULL...
OUR PRIVATE AGENDAS CAN NO LONGER MATTER!

"...GALACTUS IS A MENACE TO US ALL!"
GALACTUS IS DISTRACTED BY THE FIGHTERS... AND BY HIS OWN GREED.
IF WE'RE LUCKY, HE'LL STAY DISTRACTED... UNAWARE OF OUR SECOND WAVE, 'TIL IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP THEM.
THEY SOAR TOWARD GALACTUS'S SHIP...THE SWIFTEST, STRONGEST, MOST INVULNERABLE OF THE HIGH-FLYING HEROES...
...MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT TEAMS, WITH DIFFERENT POWERS, REPRESENTING DIFFERENT WORLDS.
SHIELDED BY A CAREFULLY PLACED BARRAGE, THEY APPROACH THE SHIP...
ANYBODY ELSE FEEL LIKE A FLEA 'BOUT TO TAKE ON AN ELEPHANT?
JUST WATCH THE SIPHON-ENERGY, TORCH! IT'LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN HEARTBURN!
...AND HOPE REED'S SPIKES DO THE JOB!
FIVE HEROES. FIVE SIPHONS. FIVE DEVICES TO BE DEPLOYED SIMULTANEOUSLY.
ONE GOAL -- SALVATION!


BLIND SINCE CHILDHOOD, ALICIA MASTERS BOTH LOVES AND HATES THE SHELL THAT SHROUDS HER...
...THAT GIVES HER TEMPORARY SIGHT... AND THE POWER TO BOTH AVOID...AND BECOME...DESTRUCTION!
VICTORY WILL BALANCE OUT THE COST.
GLADIATOR, LEADER OF AN ELITE CORPS OF SUPER-BEINGS, WASTES LITTLE TIME REGRETTING THAT HIS TROOPS ARE DEPLOYED FAR OFF-PLANET.
IMPULSIVE, HEROIC, SOMEWHAT XENOPHOBIC, HE SIMPLY FIGHTS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HIS HOMEWORLD.
IRON MAN — INVENTOR OF HIS OWN EXTRAORDINARY ARMOR — CAN FULLY APPRECIATE REED RICHARDS' BRILLIANCE.
FIVE DEVICES...WHICH UNFOLD... DEPLOY SENSORS...AND LAUNCH EXPLODING SPIKES —
-- WHICH HIT THE SIPHONS AND EXPAND, BECOME SOLID FOAM TO CLOG THE OPENING...THEN BALLOON FURTHER TO CHOKE THE SHIP'S ENGINES.
AS THE ENGINES START TO SCREAM, AND THE HEROES LEAP INTO THE SKY...
...THE MIGHTY THOR HOPES HE'LL LIVE TO LOOSE HIS GOD-LIKE POWER AGAINST GALACTUS HIMSELF.
FAINT, MUFFLED EXPLOSIONS GROW LOUDER...STRONGER.
THE TORCH DOESN'T UNDERSTAND REED'S SPIKES, BUT HE KNOWS IN THEORY WHAT COMES NEXT!
FIGHTER-CRAFT....PULLING BACK. GOOD. FAIRLY INVULNERABLE.... MOST OF US. HOPE IT'S ENOUGH!

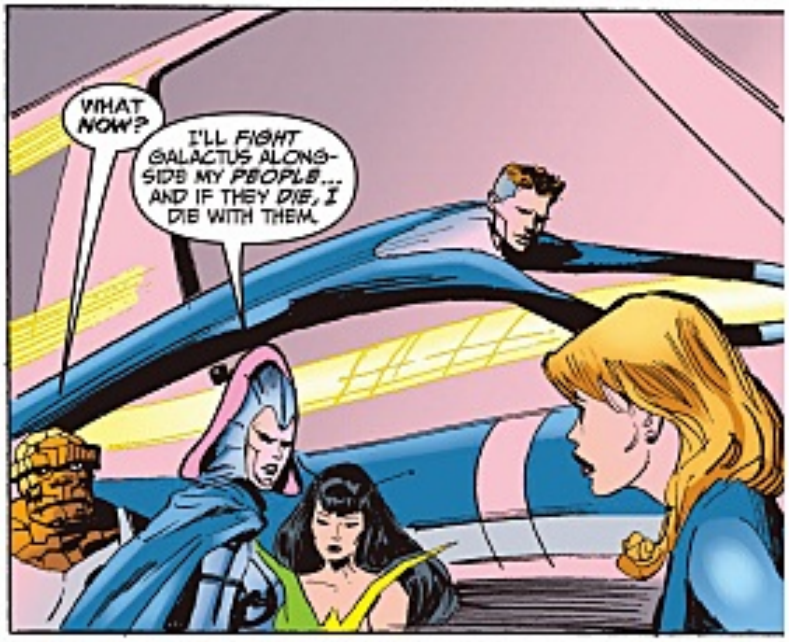
THE EXPLOSIONS ARE A ROAR NOW. THE SHIP ROCKS VIOLENTLY. SMOKE POURS FROM CRACKS IN ITS CASING. AND THEN --

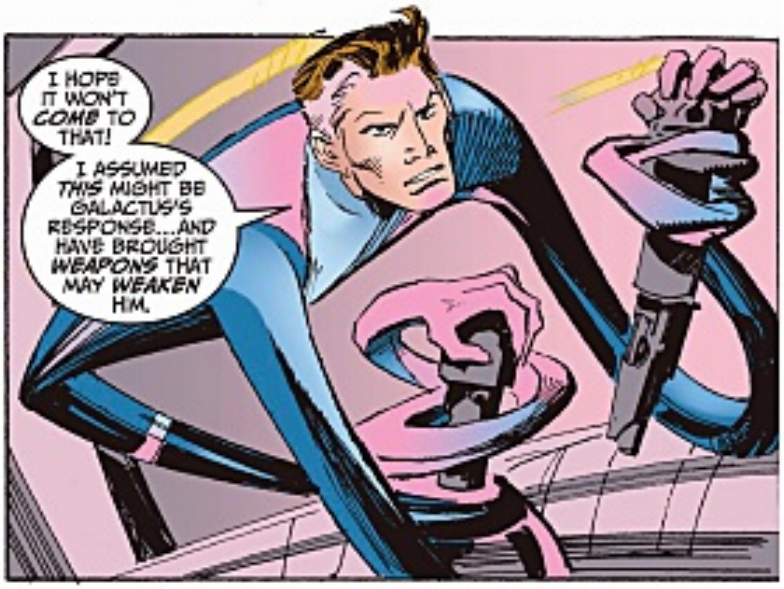
BLAM
BLAM
WITHIN THE CRIPPLED SHIP, GALACTUS SAYS NOTHING. HE SIMPLY REACHES OUT...AND ABSORBS ALL THE REMAINING POWER DIRECTLY INTO HIMSELF.
EVEN NOW HE HAS A CHOICE. HE CAN STILL RETREAT. HIS WORLD-SHIP HOVERING IN SPACE, NOT FAR AWAY...WILL STILL FOLLOW HIS COMMAND.
BUT HE IS GALACTUS -- ENRAGED, RAVENOUS, MAD! RETREAT IS NOT AN OPTION.

THE SHIP — DE-POWERED, SMOKING, BROKEN — TILTS, THEN SWINGS VIOLENTLY.
SKRRRAGH
IT'S CUTTING THROUGH THE CITY LIKE A SCYTHE! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!
THEN LET'S MOVE! NOW! LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO...
"...COME CRASHING DOWN!"
KRTHOOOMB
MY LORD! YOUR CITY --!
BUILDINGS, REED. MY PEOPLE AREN'T FOOLS! THEY HAD AMPLE WARNING. FEW WILL HAVE REMAINED...!
AND BECAUSE OF THIS ACTION, THE CITIZENS OF THIS WORLD -- THIS GALAXY -- MAY YET SURVIVE!
I'M AS GLAD AS YOU ARE T' HAVE THAT MONSTER OUTTA COMMISSION, LILANDRA...
...BUT DON'T GO PULLIN' OUT THE PARTY HATS JUST YET!

'THE SHIP CRASHED... YEAH! BUT GALACTUS WASN'T INSIDE!"

CRACKLING WITH POWER, GALACTUS LOWERS HIMSELF INTO THE DENSEST PART OF THE CITY.
LILANDRA WAS WRONG. NOT EVERYONE WAS GONE. BUT SOON, THEY WILL BE.

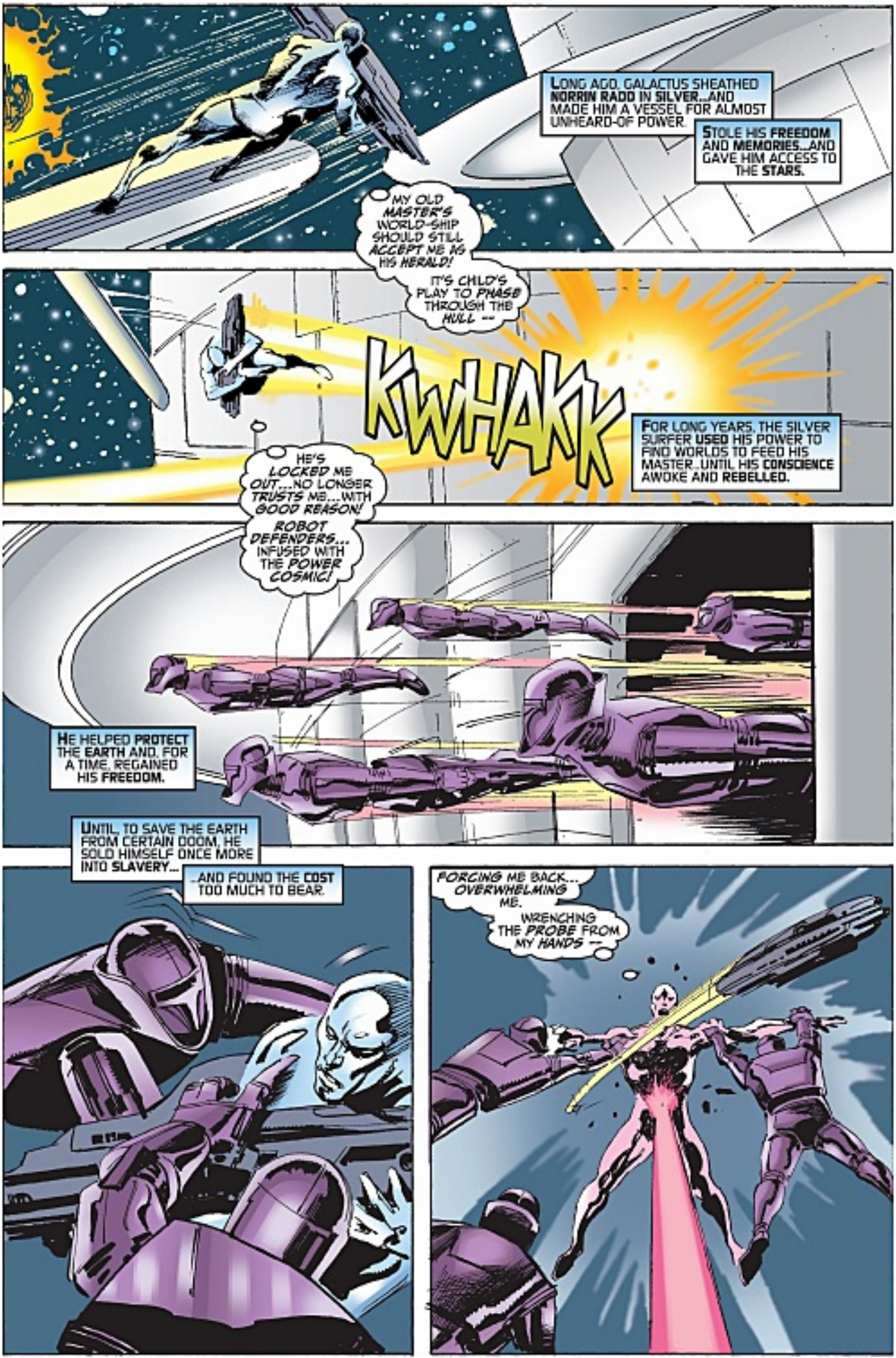

WHAT NOW?
I'LL FIGHT GALACTUS ALONGSIDE MY PEOPLE... AND IF THEY DIE, I DIE WITH THEM.

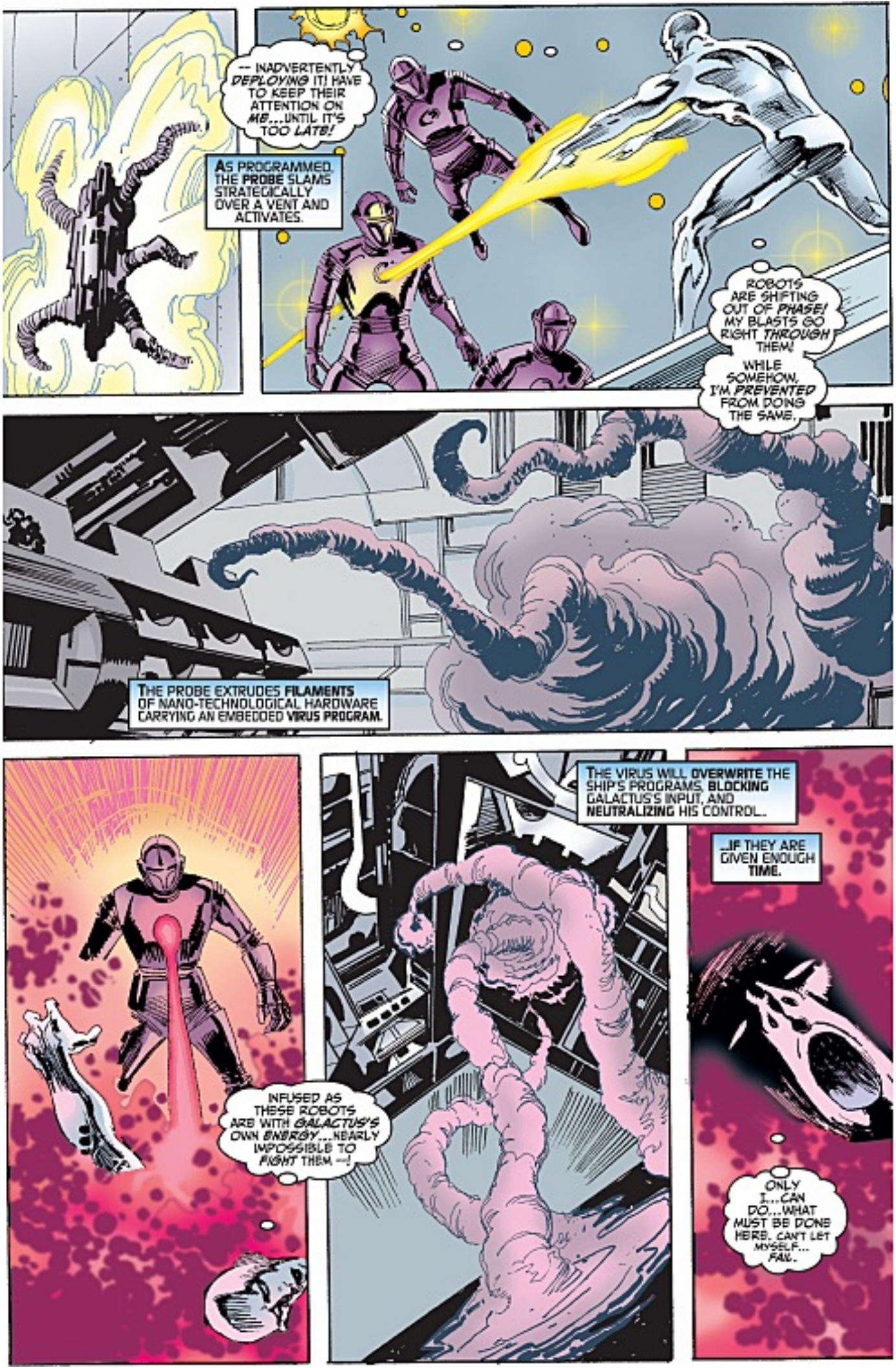

I HOPE IT WON'T COME TO THAT!
I ASSUMED THIS MIGHT BE GALACTUS'S RESPONSE...AND HAVE BROUGHT WEAPONS THAT MAY WEAKEN HIM.

THE WEAPONRY OF THE SHI'AR IS NOT TO BE SNEERED AT, REED RICHARDS.
NOR ARE OUR JET PACKS, VEHICLES... AND PERSONAL FORCE-SHIELD ARMOR, WHICH I OFFER TO ALL OF YOU.

I'LL EXTEND MY FORCE FIELD... USE IT TO DISRUPT GALACTUS'S PERSONAL FIELD...LIKE I DID BEFORE!*
GET READY TO --
*IN GALACTUS #3 -- BOBBIE.
PZADKKK
GALACTUS... FIELD...RE-CALIBRATED. FREQUENCIES... SHIFTING RANDOMLY.
CAN'T PREDICT HOW... OR DISRUPT IT...OR GET THROUGH!
THEN WE'LL DO IT THE HARD WAY.
WANDA -- USE YOUR CHAOS POWER! CREATE A ZONE OF VULNERABILITY IN GALACTUS'S DEFENSES!

CIVILIANS -- WHAT'RE THEY DOING HERE?!
MAYBE LILANDRA'S SUBJECTS AREN'T AS BRIGHT AS SHE THOUGHT!
I HAVE THEM, REED!
THE REST OF YOU COORDINATE YOUR EFFORTS... TRY TO FIND THE CHINK IN GALACTUS'S ARMOR.
PZAKT
ZANNNG
NUTHIN'!
WEAPONS...EVEN ION-BLASTERS... AGAINST GALACTUS! IT'S MADNESS!
PERHAPS, WERE THESE THE ONLY WEAPONS THE DEVOURER FACED!
FIRE!
YOU WANNA TELL ME AGAIN, STRETCH, WHY WE JUST DON'T USE THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER TO TAKE THIS CLOWN OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL?
IT'S A BIT PREMATURE TO CONSIDER DESTROYING THE GALAXY TO RID OURSELVES OF GALACTUS!
SHOULD IT COME TO THAT...AND I HOPE IT WON'T... THE SILVER SURFER KNOWS WHERE THE NULLIFIER IS...AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT.


LONG AGO, GALACTUS SHEATHED NORRIN RADD IN SILVER...AND MADE HIM A VESSEL FOR ALMOST UNHEARD-OF POWER.
STOLE HIS FREEDOM AND MEMORIES...AND GAVE HIM ACCESS TO THE STARS.
MY OLD MASTER'S WORLD-SHIP SHOULD STILL ACCEPT ME AS HIS HERALD!
IT'S CHILD'S PLAY TO PHASE THROUGH THE HULL --
KWHAKK
FOR LONG YEARS, THE SILVER SURFER USED HIS POWER TO FIND WORLDS TO FEED HIS MASTER...UNTIL HIS CONSCIENCE AWOKE AND REBELLED.
HE'S LOCKED ME OUT...NO LONGER TRUSTS ME...WITH GOOD REASON!
ROBOT DEFENDERS... INFUSED WITH THE POWER COSMIC!
HE HELPED PROTECT THE EARTH AND, FOR A TIME, REGAINED HIS FREEDOM.
UNTIL, TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM CERTAIN DOOM, HE SOLD HIMSELF ONCE MORE INTO SLAVERY...
...AND FOUND THE COST TOO MUCH TO BEAR.
FORCING ME BACK... OVERWHELMING ME.
WRENCHING THE PROBE FROM MY HANDS --


-- INADVERTENTLY DEPLOYING IT! HAVE TO KEEP THEIR ATTENTION ON ME...UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
AS PROGRAMMED, THE PROBE SLAMS STRATEGICALLY OVER A VENT AND ACTIVATES.
ROBOTS ARE SHIFTING OUT OF PHASE! MY BLASTS GO RIGHT THROUGH THEM!
WHILE SOMEHOW, I'M PREVENTED FROM DOING THE SAME.
THE PROBE EXTRUDES FILAMENTS OF NANO-TECHNOLOGICAL HARDWARE CARRYING AN EMBEDDED VIRUS PROGRAM.
INFUSED AS THESE ROBOTS ARE WITH GALACTUS'S OWN ENERGY...NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT THEM --!
THE VIRUS WILL OVERWRITE THE SHIP'S PROGRAMS, BLOCKING GALACTUS'S INPUT, AND NEUTRALIZING HIS CONTROL..
...IF THEY ARE GIVEN ENOUGH TIME.
ONLY I...CAN DO...WHAT MUST BE DONE HERE. CAN'T LET MYSELF... FAIL.

WHILE FAR AWAY...
WE SURVIVED! NOW, LET US JOIN THE OTHERS!
EVEN AGAINST THE FULL FORCE OF OUR COMBINED ATTACK, GALACTUS SEEMS UNFAZED!
YET NEVER SHALL WE YIELD!

AS THE BATTLE RAGES, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO YIELD, AS DEATH DOGS THEIR STEPS...
RUN, CHILDREN!

DON'T LOOK BACK! JUST...
RUN!

THE MOTHER IS BEYOND HELP! BUT THIS ONE WILL SAVE HER YOUNG...

...EVEN AS SHE COULD NOT SAVE THE SCIONS OF DESTROYED VERDANT.

MANTIS!
SIPHON TENDRILS... REACHING FOR THEM...MOVING FAST.
SHE COULD TURN TO ENERGY... SAVE HERSELF, BUT SHE WON'T ABANDON THE CHILDREN.
SHE'S A TRUE HERO... WORTHY OF THE SURFER'S LOVE...
...BUT SHE'S NOT FAST ENOUGH! NOT EVEN I COULD REACH THEM IN TIME!
BUT MAYBE I CAN TRICK THE TENDRILS, MAKE THEM TURN FROM HER...
...THINKING THEY'VE FOUND ANOTHER VICTIM!
ARMOR WITHSTOOD... RED SHIFT'S ASSAULT OF COSMIC ENERGY... FOR A WHILE...!
IN GALACTUS #2 -- BOBBIE.
TIME ENOUGH...TO SAVE MANTIS...SO SHE CAN SAVE... THE CHILDREN!
THEN... FIGHT MY WAY... CLEAR...
...SURELY... HAVE TIME ENOUGH...FOR THAT!
'LICIA!
STUFF'S EATIN' AT MY SKIN LIKE ACID!
GOTTA ZOOM IN, GRAB HER QUICK, AN' GET OUT!
ARMOR KEPT HER SAFE, LONG AS IT COULD.
NOW IT'S FADIN'... NEARLY GONE. THEN SHE'LL BE GONE!
CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS... WITH SO MUCH LEFT T' SAY BETWEEN US!

HE STUMBLED...I THINK! FINALLY, WE'RE GETTING TO HIM --
THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!

AW, MAN! FOR A SECOND THERE, I THOUGHT WE HAD HIM ON THE ROPES!
WE ARE LIKE FLIES AT HIS BANQUET, TORCH! HE IGNORED US FOR A WHILE...
...BUT NOW, HE'S GETTING OUT THE SWATTERS!

WHILE HIGH OVERHEAD, THE KREE CAPTAIN GLOATS...
YES! GALACTUS IS BLASTING THEM BACK! THEY'RE LOSING! SOON... THEY'LL BE DEAD!
GALACTUS WILL DESTROY THE SHI'AR FOR US!

AND WE'LL SAVE OUR ION ROCKETS FOR THE CONQUEST OF EARTH -- AAK!
PZZZKKK

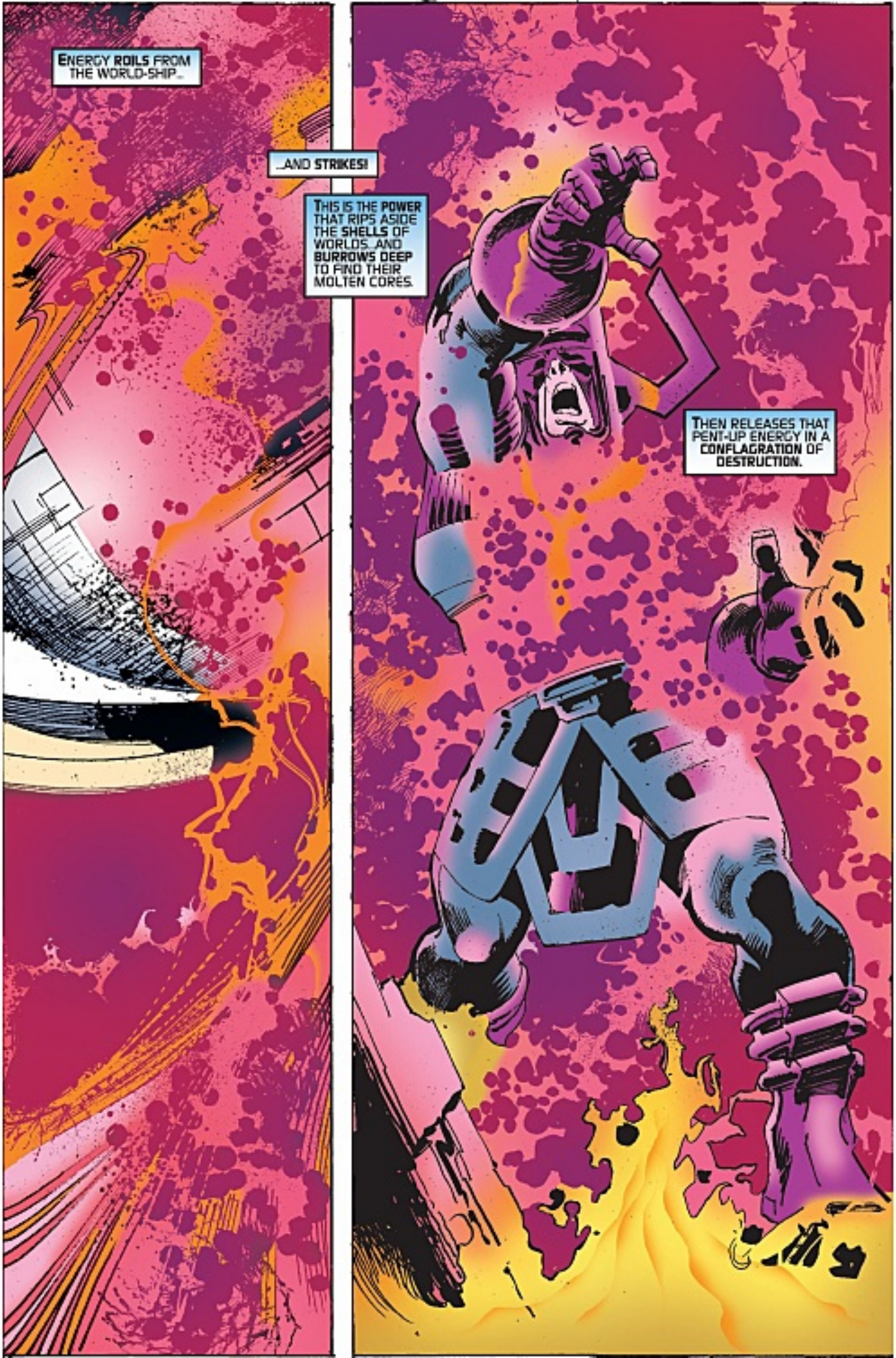
SIR...! WHAT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
WE HAVE WEAPONS THAT COULD TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE. AND A MORE WORTHY TARGET THAN THE SHI'AR!
I'LL NOT HAVE IT SAID THAT, WHILE THE GREAT POWERS OF THE GALAXY FOUGHT HEROICALLY...
...THE KREE COWERED IN THE SHADOWS!

IT'S LIKE GALACTUS HAS GONE BERSERK! ENERGY...BATTERING MY FORCE FIELD.
WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT US...FOR MUCH LONGER.
IT'S A BLACK DAY FOR THE UNIVERSE, 'LICIA! LOOKS LIKE GALACTUS MIGHT JUST WIN THIS ROUND!
LOOK! A KREE SHIP! WHAT'S IT DOIN' HERE?!
SHRA
KOOOM
KREE FOOLS! JOIN YOUR SHI'AR CONQUERORS IN DEATH!
YOUR LIFE-FORCE BELONGS NOW TO GALACTUS!
NOW -- WHILE GALACTUS IS DISTRACTED! WE PULL BACK -- REGROUP!
ARE WE JUST PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE?
NO! I CAN'T LET MYSELF THINK LIKE THAT!
EVERYTHING WE DO HERE IS A DIVERSION... A STALLING TACTIC.
OUR FATE...THE FATE OF THE GALAXY... RESTS IN THE HANDS OF THE SILVER SURFER... AND LIES AMONG THE STARS...!

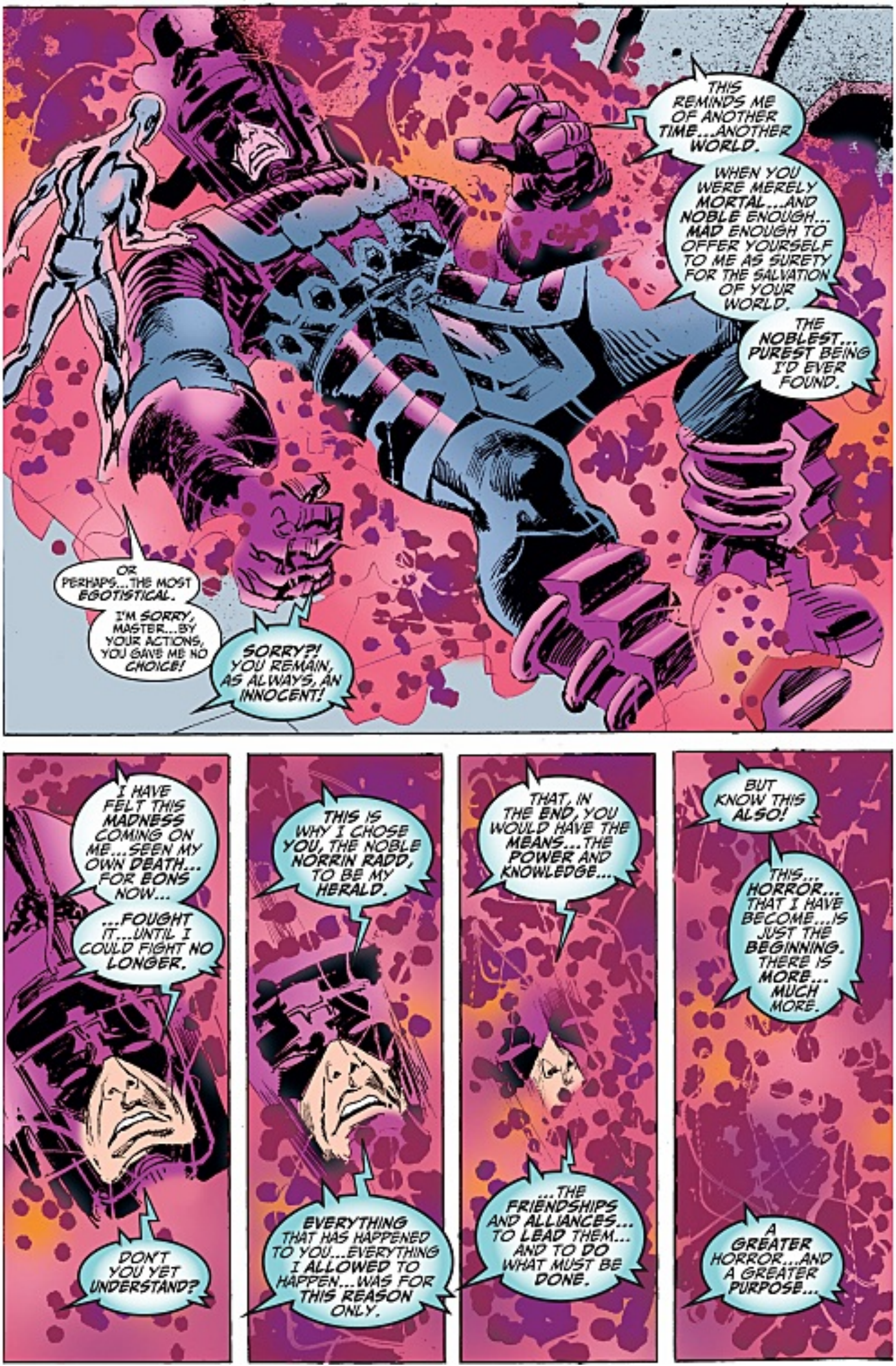
WHILE FAR ABOVE...
FINALLY...! THE ROBOTS CAN NO LONGER EVADE MY BLASTS...!
REED'S PROBE HAS DISRUPTED GALACTUS'S CONTROLS. THE SHIP NO LONGER OBEYS HIS COMMANDS...
I CAN ENTER NOW!
CAN ATTUNE ITS DREAD MACHINERIES TO DEVOUR THE MOST POWERFUL LIFE-FORM IN THE VICINITY.
SCREENS ON! LOCK ON COORDINATES
SCENES OF DESTRUCTION. A DESPERATE ASSAULT AGAINST GALACTUS...WHICH THE HEROES UNITED ARE LOSING.
ETERNITY HIMSELF MADE IT PLAIN -- GALACTUS IS NECESSARY TO THE CONTINUATION OF THIS UNIVERSE.
BUT GALACTUS NOW THREATENS AT LEAST THIS CORNER OF IT.
AS HE ABSORBS THE SHI'AR LIFE-FORCE... AND THAT OF OTHER DEFENDERS OF THAT WORLD...HE WILL GROW STRONGER, STILL.
I ASK MYSELF -- HOW CAN I DO THIS TO MY OLD MASTER?
YET I STARTED DOWN THIS PATH WHEN I FIRST REBELLED...
...AND VALUED MY CONSCIENCE MORE HIGHLY THAN MY LOYALTY TO HIM!
NOW I MUST TAKE THIS FINAL, TERRIBLE STEP.
GALACTUS HIMSELF GAVE ME THE POWER TO WARP SPACE. NOW I MUST USE IT TO DESTROY HIM!

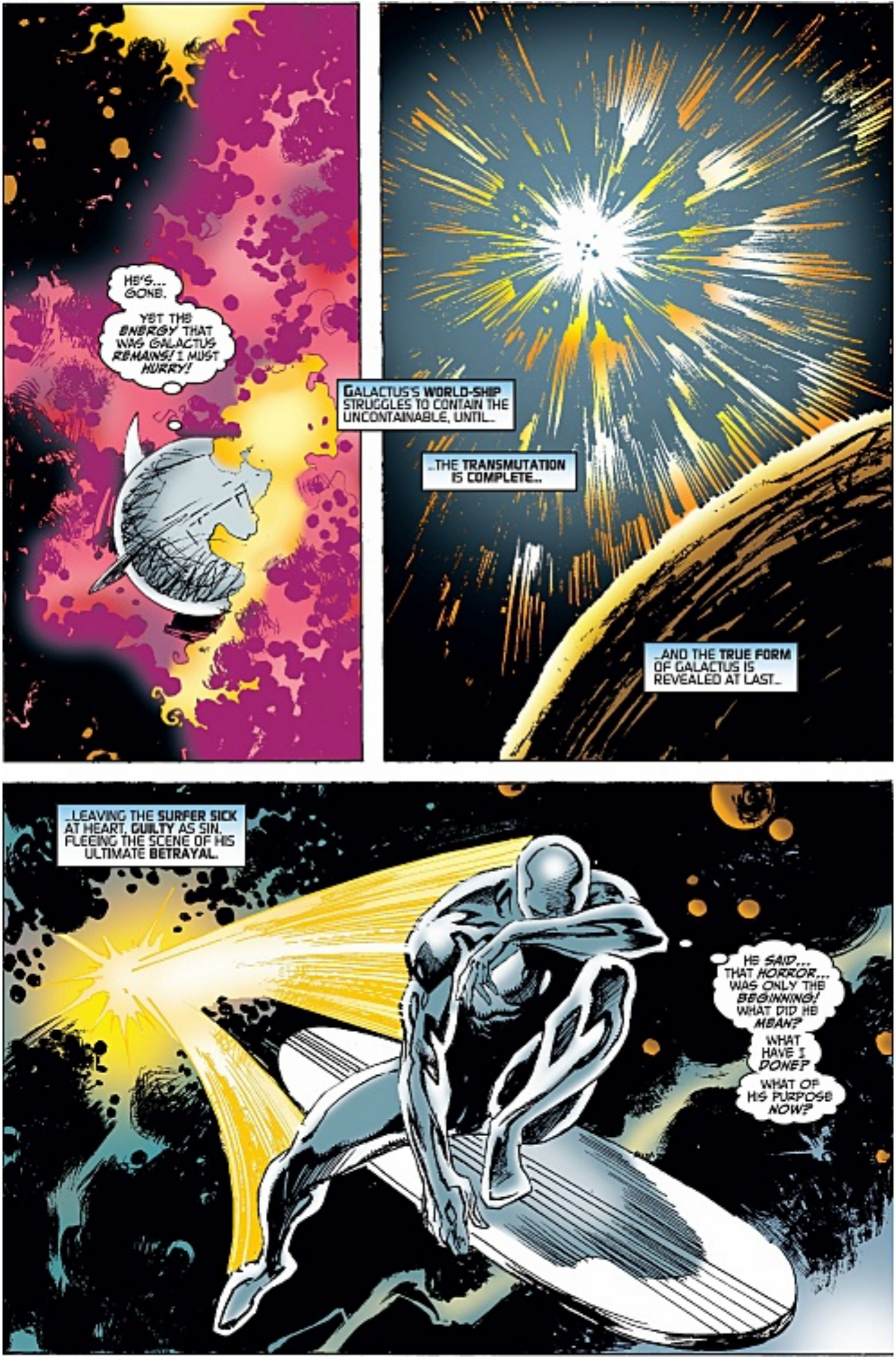
MANY DEFENDERS OF HOMEWORLD ARE DEAD. OTHERS ARE DYING. THE CAPITAL IS LAID WASTE.
NOW CRACKLING TENDRILS OF ALL-DEVOURING ENERGY FLOW OUTWARD.
SOON THEY WILL ENCOMPASS THE PLANET...AND THE SHI'AR HOMEWORLD WILL BE LOST!
SOMETHING IS WRONG.
IN THE SKY...A WARP! A RIP IN THE FABRIC OF HYPERSPACE!
AND THROUGH THE WARP....MY WORLD-SHIP! WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?
GO, I COMMAND YOU!
USELESS! YOUR SHIP HAS BEEN SUBORNED. IT WILL OBEY YOUR WILL NO LONGER!
YOU -- WHOM I TRUSTED ABOVE ALL OTHERS! YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME!
PLEASE... MASTER, THERE IS STILL TIME! LEAVE THIS PLANET! ESCHEW THIS DESTRUCTION!

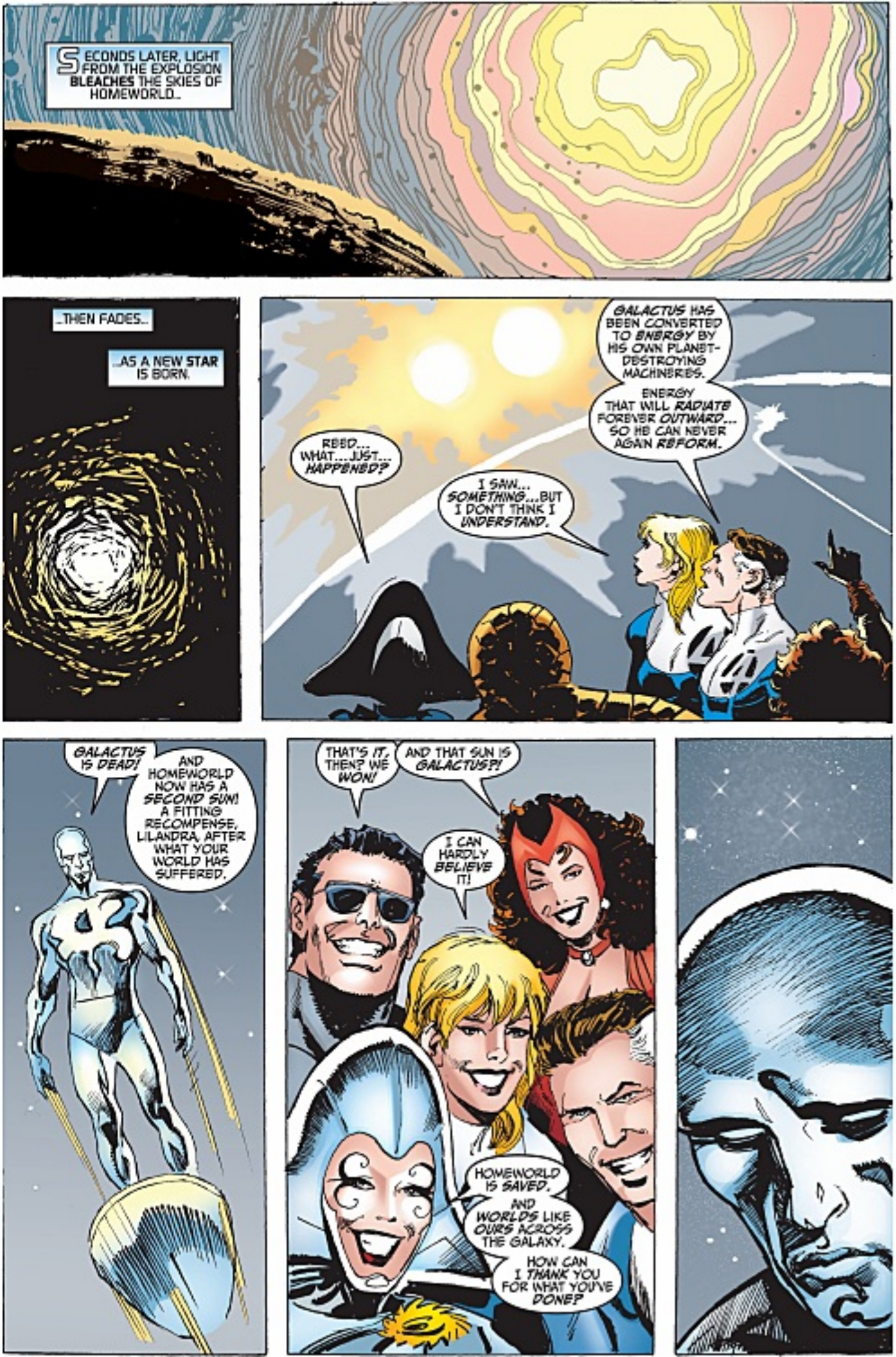
YOU DID THIS! YOU BETRAYED ME!
I WILL DESTROY YOU! I WILL DESTROY YOU ALL!
SORRY, MASTER! I COULDN'T RISK MY OWN DESTRUCTION... NOT YET!
HAD YOU BEEN IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, THIS PROJECTION NEVER WOULD HAVE DECEIVED YOU!
A TRICK! AN ILLUSION!
YOU MAY BE UNREAL... BUT THEY ARE NOT!
WITHIN THEIR FRAIL SHELLS LIES STRENGTH...AND THE POWER I NEED!
SKRAKOOM
GODS OF ZENN-LA, I'VE FAILED HIM... AND MYSELF! I MUST END THIS NOW... OR FAIL THE UNIVERSE!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
THE WARP STAYS OPEN... AND THIS WILL FINALLY END THE ONLY WAY IT CAN!


ENERGY ROILS FROM THE WORLD-SHIP...
...AND STRIKES!
THIS IS THE POWER THAT RIPS ASIDE THE SHELLS OF WORLDS. AND BURROWS DEEP TO FIND THEIR MOLTEN CORES.
THEN RELEASES THAT PENT-UP ENERGY IN A CONFLAGRATION OF DESTRUCTION.

IT DEVOURS...IT ANNIHILATES... IT LAYS WASTE TO PLANETS.
AND IN THE END, TRANSMUTES EVERY MOLECULE TO ENERGY.
AND SO IT ENDS!
THIS IS WHAT YOU PLANNED...ALL ALONG?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, SUZIE. IT WAS HIM OR ALL OF US... AN' EVERYBODY ELSE!
HE'S FLYING UP! DISAPPEARING!
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
BEHIND GALACTUS, THE WARP BEGINS TO CLOSE...
...LEAVING BEHIND THE SILENT, EMPTY WRECKAGE OF THE CAPITAL, THE BITTER REEK OF DEATH...
...AND THE DAWNING HOPE OF HARD-WON VICTORY.


THIS REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER TIME...ANOTHER WORLD.
WHEN YOU WERE MERELY MORTAL...AND NOBLE ENOUGH... MAD ENOUGH TO OFFER YOURSELF TO ME AS SURETY FOR THE SALVATION OF YOUR WORLD.
THE NOBLEST... PUREST BEING I'D EVER FOUND.
OR PERHAPS...THE MOST EGOTISTICAL.
I'M SORRY, MASTER...BY YOUR ACTIONS, YOU GAVE ME NO CHOICE!
SORRY?! YOU REMAIN, AS ALWAYS, AN INNOCENT!
I HAVE FELT THIS MADNESS COMING ON ME...SEEN MY OWN DEATH... FOR EONS NOW...
...FOUGHT IT...UNTIL I COULD FIGHT NO LONGER.
DON'T YOU YET UNDERSTAND?
THIS IS WHY I CHOSE YOU, THE NOBLE NORRIN RADD, TO BE MY HERALD.
EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU...EVERYTHING I ALLOWED TO HAPPEN...WAS FOR THIS REASON ONLY.
THAT, IN THE END, YOU WOULD HAVE THE MEANS...THE POWER AND KNOWLEDGE...
...THE FRIENDSHIPS AND ALLIANCES... TO LEAD THEM... AND TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.
BUT KNOW THIS ALSO!
THIS... HORROR... THAT I HAVE BECOME...IS JUST THE BEGINNING. THERE IS MORE... MUCH MORE.
A GREATER HORROR...AND A GREATER PURPOSE...


HE'S... GONE.
YET THE ENERGY THAT WAS GALACTUS REMAINS! I MUST HURRY!
GALACTUS'S WORLD-SHIP STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN THE UNCONTAINABLE, UNTIL..
..THE TRANSMUTATION IS COMPLETE..
..AND THE TRUE FORM OF GALACTUS IS REVEALED AT LAST..
..LEAVING THE SURFER SICK AT HEART, GUILTY AS SIN, FLEEING THE SCENE OF HIS ULTIMATE BETRAYAL.
HE SAID... THAT HORROR... WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! WHAT DID HE MEAN?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT OF HIS PURPOSE NOW?


SECONDS LATER, LIGHT FROM THE EXPLOSION BLEACHES THE SKIES OF HOMEWORLD...
...THEN FADES...
...AS A NEW STAR IS BORN.
GALACTUS HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO ENERGY BY HIS OWN PLANET-DESTROYING MACHINERIES.
ENERGY THAT WILL RADIATE FOREVER OUTWARD... SO HE CAN NEVER AGAIN REFORM.
REED... WHAT... JUST... HAPPENED?
I SAW... SOMETHING... BUT I DON'T THINK I UNDERSTAND.
GALACTUS IS DEAD!
AND HOMEWORLD NOW HAS A SECOND SUN! A FITTING RECOMPENSE, LILANDRA, AFTER WHAT YOUR WORLD HAS SUFFERED.
THAT'S IT, THEN? WE WON!
AND THAT SUN IS GALACTUS?!
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
HOMEWORLD IS SAVED.
AND WORLDS LIKE OURS ACROSS THE GALAXY.
HOW CAN I THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

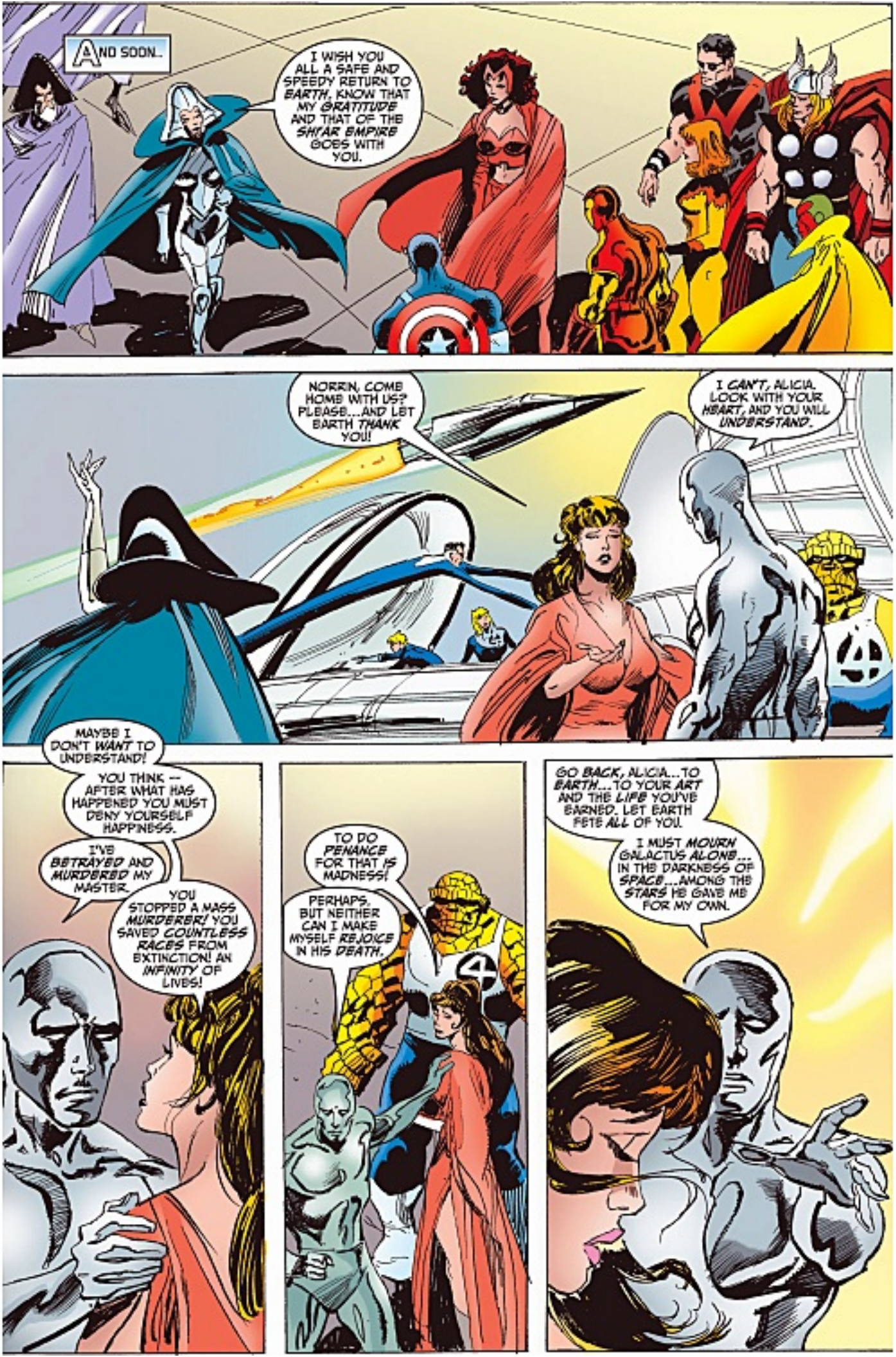
SLOWLY, DAMAGED FIGHTER CRAFT BEGIN TO RETURN...
LOOK! THE STARJAMMERS! THEY SURVIVED!
AND CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE VISION ARE WITH THEM!
WHEN GALACTUS'S FORCE FIELD WENT DOWN, IT BLEW US OUT OF THE SKY.
CAP'S SHIELD DEFLECTED SOME OF THE ENERGY... OR WE WOULD HAVE FRIED.
THOUGH THEIR SHIP WAS BADLY DAMAGED, CORSAIR AND HIS CREW PULLED US FROM THE WRECKAGE.
LOOKS LIKE WE LIMPED BACK HERE, JUST IN TIME FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONIES!
...AND WOUNDS ARE HEALED.
ALICIA?! BEN... WHAT HAPPENED?
HER HEROISM SAVED THIS ONE... AND OTHERS.
SHE'S ALIVE, BUDDY. FOR NOW. I'M HOPIN' SHI'AR MEDICINE --
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. FOR ALL SHE HAS DONE... I OWE HER AT LEAST THIS.
N-NORRIN...?
I COULD INFUSE YOU WITH ENERGY, ALICIA... HEAL YOU. BUT I CAN'T RESTORE YOUR ARMOR.
APPARENTLY... THAT'S GONE FOREVER.
NO MORE ARMOR... BUT NO NEED FOR ANY, EITHER.
GLAD TO BE ABLE TO HELP! GLADDER STILL... IT'S OVER.
MY SLAVERY... AND GALACTUS'S DEPREDATIONS... ARE ENDED.
WHY THEN THIS HEAVINESS AROUND MY HEART?

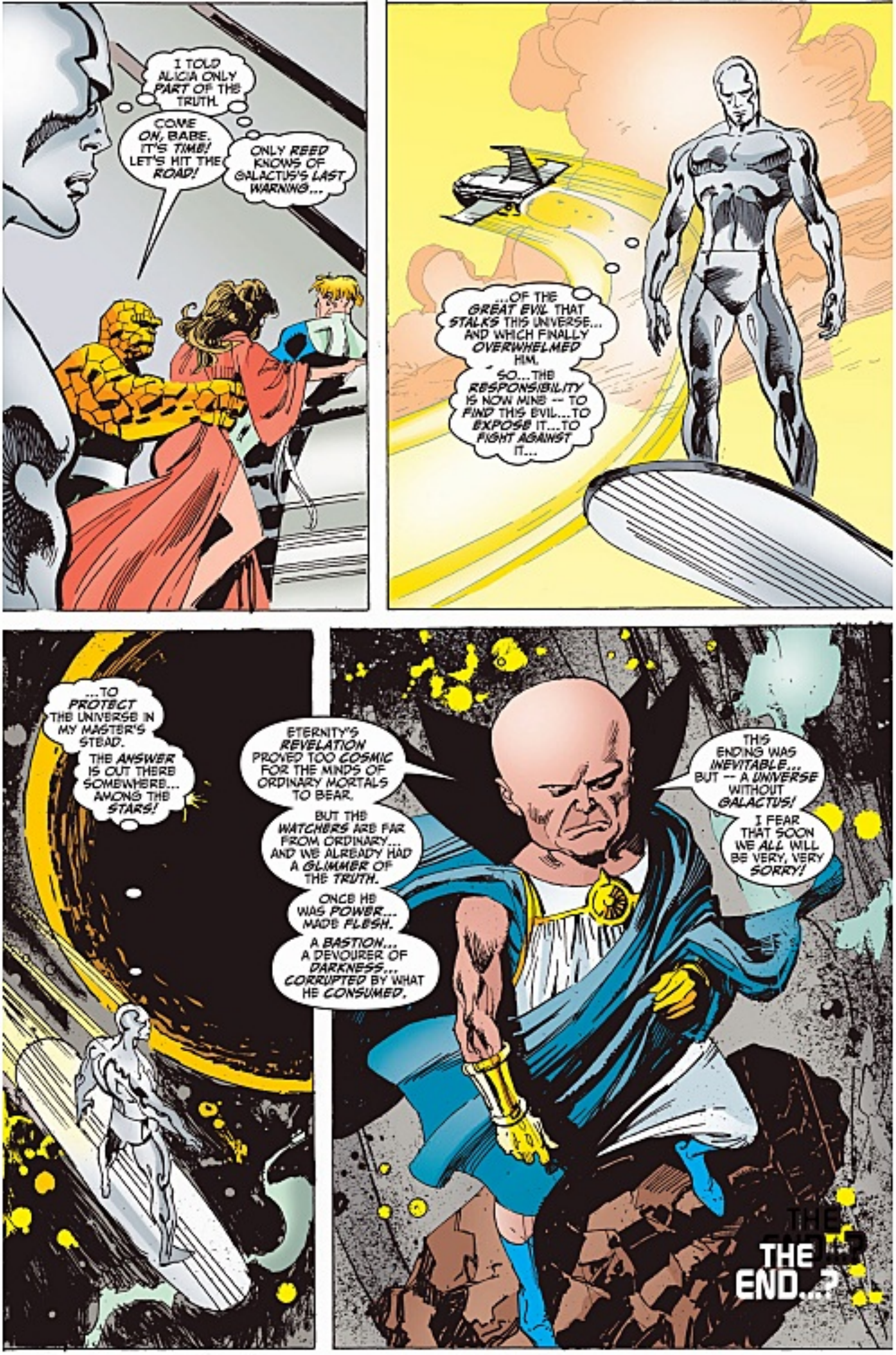
THE VICTORY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN...
ALL HERE... THE LIVING AND THE DEAD PLAYED A PART IN THE PRESERVATION OF THIS GALAXY.
THE DEAD KREE REBEL WARRIORS ARE ESPECIALLY TO BE HONORED.
THEIR SACRIFICE GIVES ME HOPE THAT COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.

...AND THE CHAMPIONS ARE FETED.
TWO EMPTY CHAIRS -- REED'S... AND NORRIN'S. THE ARCHITECTS OF THIS VICTORY.
IT'S LIKE HONORING A COUPLE OF GHOSTS.
NORRIN, AT LEAST, LOOKS LIKE A GHOST... OR MAYBE LIKE HE LOST HIS BEST FRIEND.
I THINK, IN A WAY, HE DID.

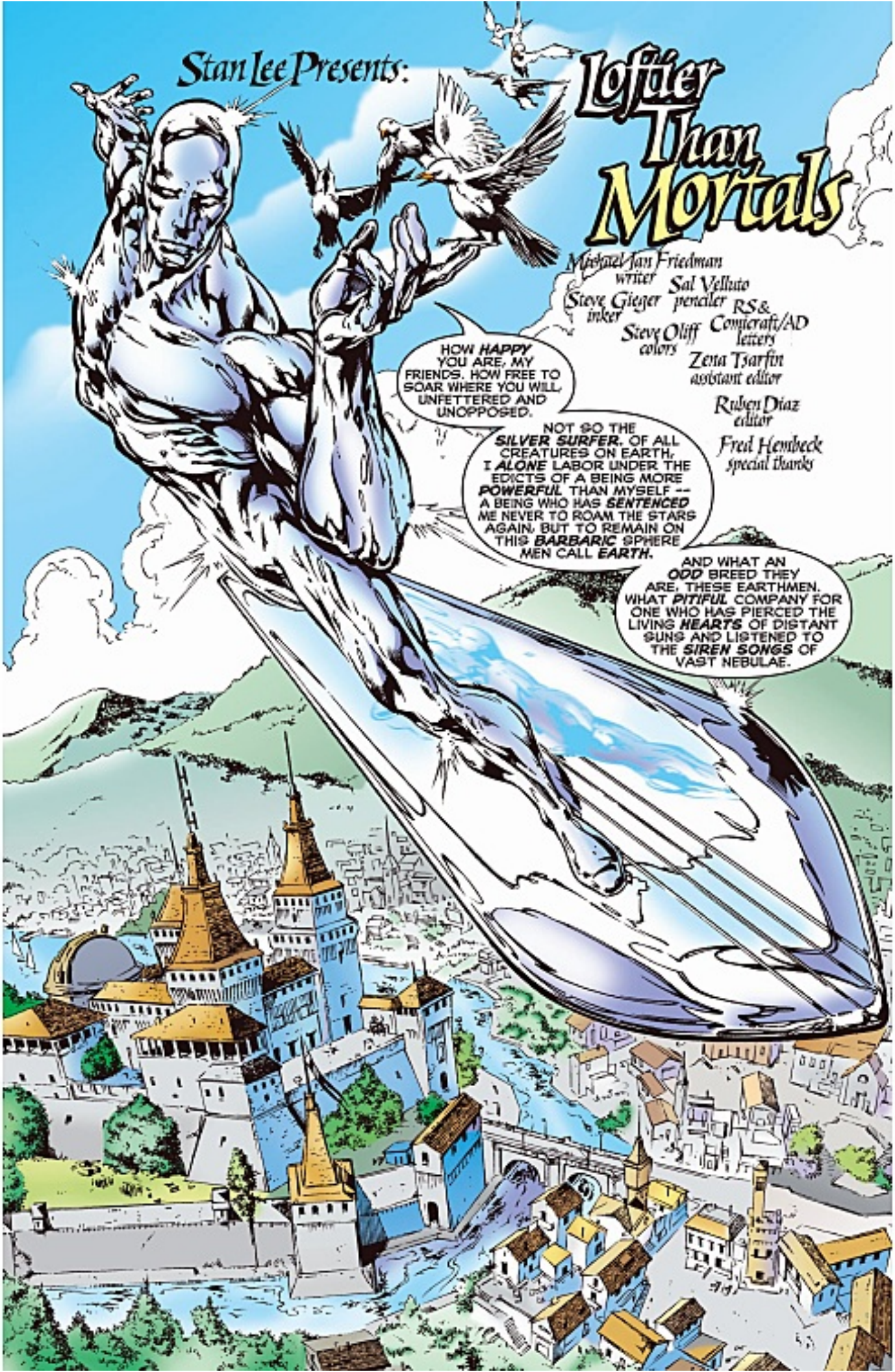
DID WE DO THE RIGHT THING, REED?
WAS THERE A CHOICE?
GALACTUS WAS ILL BEFORE YOU SAVED HIM, EVEN BEFORE I WAS... TRANSFORMED.
HE CHOSE ME...CREATED ME AS INSURANCE... SO THAT IF HE LOST CONTROL...I WOULD BE THERE TO STOP HIM.

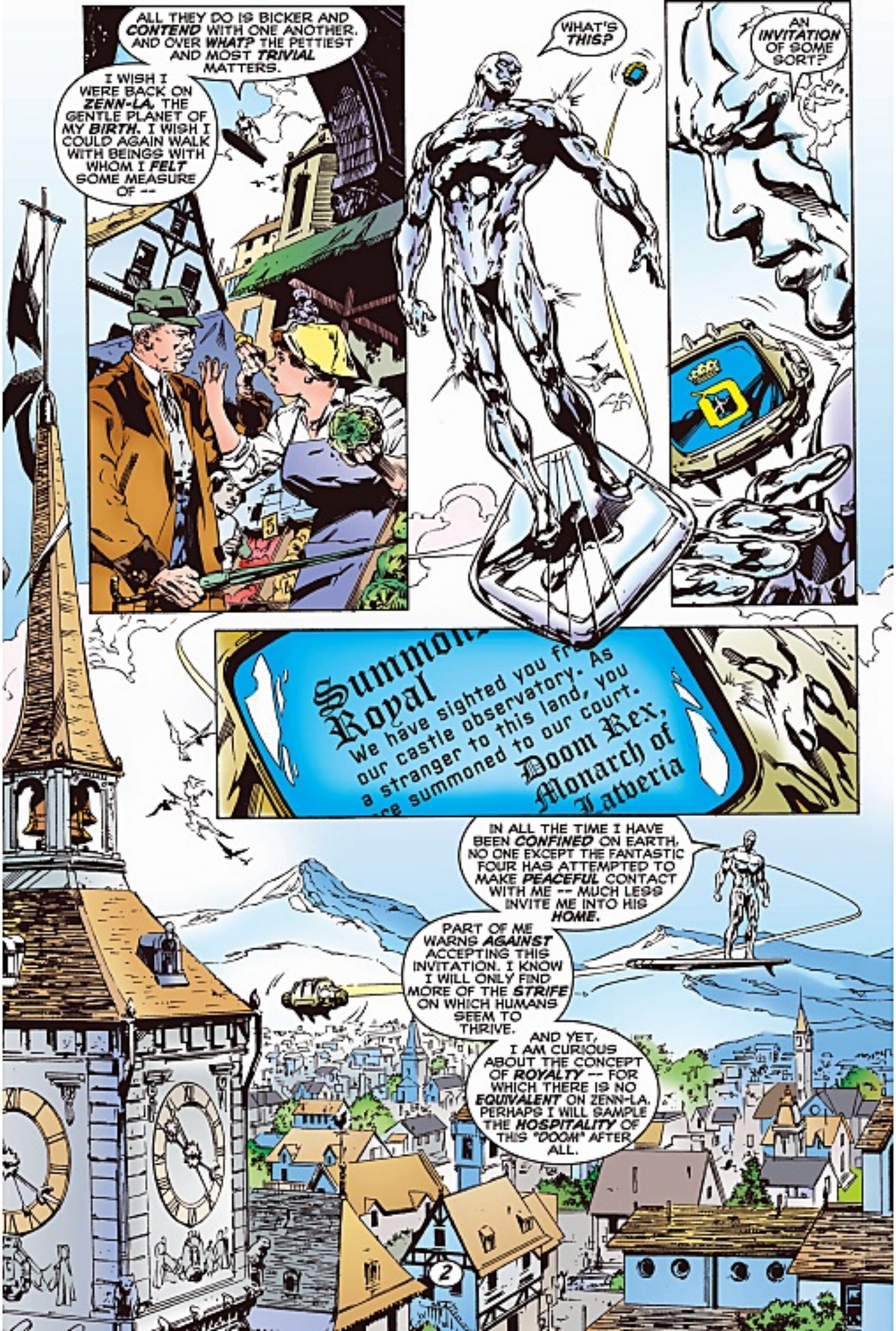
BUT...ILL FROM WHAT? WHAT CAUSED HIS MADNESS?
WILL OUR... FINAL SOLUTION PROVE WORSE THAN ALL HIS DESTRUCTION?
I...DON'T KNOW. BUT THAT WORRIES ME. TO BRING GALACTUS LOW, IT MUST BE VERY BAD INDEED.

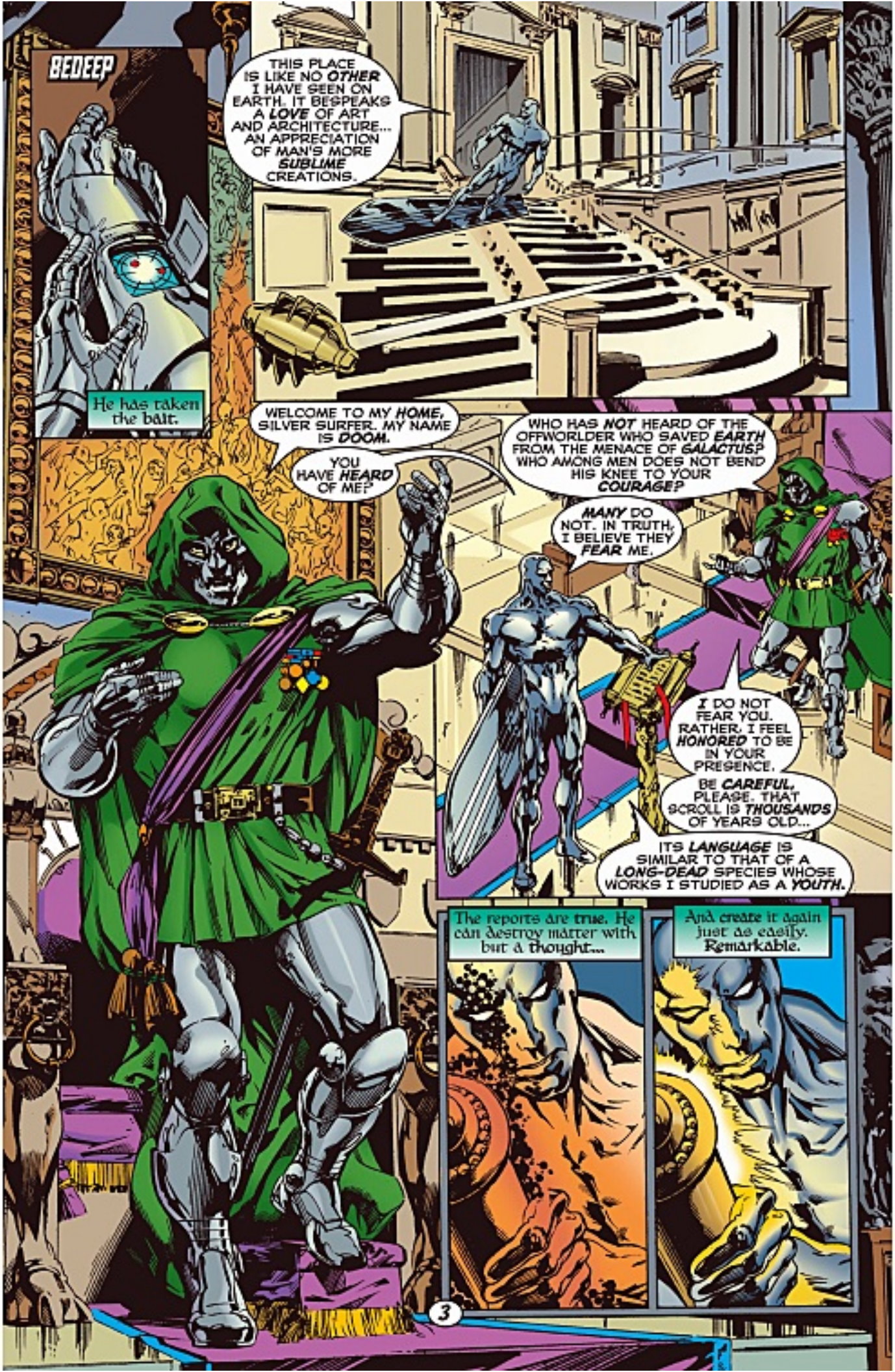

AND SOON...
I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND SPEEDY RETURN TO EARTH, KNOW THAT MY GRATITUDE AND THAT OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE GOES WITH YOU.
NORRIN, COME HOME WITH US? PLEASE...AND LET EARTH THANK YOU!
I CAN'T, ALICIA. LOOK WITH YOUR HEART, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND!
YOU THINK — AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED YOU MUST DENY YOURSELF HAPPINESS.
I'VE BETRAYED AND MURDERED MY MASTER.
YOU STOPPED A MASS MURDERER! YOU SAVED COUNTLESS RACES FROM EXTINCTION! AN INFINITY OF LIVES!
TO DO PENANCE FOR THAT IS MADNESS!
PERHAPS, BUT NEITHER CAN I MAKE MYSELF REJOICE IN HIS DEATH.
GO BACK, ALICIA...TO EARTH...TO YOUR ART AND THE LIFE YOU'VE EARNED. LET EARTH FETE ALL OF YOU.
I MUST MOURN GALACTUS ALONE... IN THE DARKNESS OF SPACE...AMONG THE STARS HE GAVE ME FOR MY OWN.


I TOLD ALICIA ONLY PART OF THE TRUTH.
COME ON, BABE. IT'S TIME! LET'S HIT THE ROAD!
ONLY REED KNOWS OF GALACTUS'S LAST WARNING...
...OF THE GREAT EVIL THAT STALKS THIS UNIVERSE... AND WHICH FINALLY OVERWHELMED HIM.
SO...THE RESPONSIBILITY IS NOW MINE -- TO FIND THIS EVIL...TO EXPOSE IT...TO FIGHT AGAINST IT...
...TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE IN MY MASTER'S STEAD.
THE ANSWER IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE... AMONG THE STARS!
ETERNITY'S REVELATION PROVED TOO COSMIC FOR THE MINDS OF ORDINARY MORTALS TO BEAR.
BUT THE WATCHERS ARE FAR FROM ORDINARY... AND WE ALREADY HAD A GLIMMER OF THE TRUTH.
ONCE HE WAS POWER... MADE FLESH.
A BASTION... A DEVOURER OF DARKNESS... CORRUPTED BY WHAT HE CONSUMED.
THIS ENDING WAS INEVITABLE... BUT -- A UNIVERSE WITHOUT GALACTUS!
I FEAR THAT SOON WE ALL WILL BE VERY, VERY SORRY!
THE END...?

IN 1999 MARVEL PUBLISHED TWO "REMIX" MINISERIES, BOTH OF WHICH REIMAGINED AND EXPANDED UPON CLASSIC *FANTASTIC FOUR* STORYLINES. *SILVER SURFER: LOFTIER THAN MORTALS* "REMIXED" THE SILVER SURFER/DOCTOR DOOM CONFLICT FROM *FANTASTIC FOUR (1961)* #57-61.


Stan Lee Presents:
Loftier Than Mortals
Michael Jan Friedman
writer
Sal Velluto
penciler
Steve Gieger
inker
RS&
Comicraft/AD
letters
Steve Oliff
colors
Zeta Tsarfin
assistant editor
Ruben Diaz
editor
Fred Hembeck
special thanks
HOW HAPPY YOU ARE, MY FRIENDS. HOW FREE TO SOAR WHERE YOU WILL, UNFETTERED AND UNOPPOSED.
NOT SO THE SILVER SURFER. OF ALL CREATURES ON EARTH, I ALONE LABOR UNDER THE EDICTS OF A BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN MYSELF -- A BEING WHO HAS SENTENCED ME NEVER TO ROAM THE STARS AGAIN, BUT TO REMAIN ON THIS BARBARIC SPHERE MEN CALL EARTH.
AND WHAT AN ODD BREED THEY ARE, THESE EARTHMEN. WHAT PITIFUL COMPANY FOR ONE WHO HAS PIERCED THE LIVING HEARTS OF DISTANT SUNS AND LISTENED TO THE SIREN SONGS OF VAST NEBULAE.


ALL THEY DO IS BICKER AND CONTEND WITH ONE ANOTHER. AND OVER WHAT? THE PETTIEST AND MOST TRIVIAL MATTERS.
I WISH I WERE BACK ON ZENN-LA, THE GENTLE PLANET OF MY BIRTH. I WISH I COULD AGAIN WALK WITH BEINGS WITH WHOM I FELT SOME MEASURE OF --
WHAT'S THIS?
AN INVITATION OF SOME SORT?
Summon
Royal
We have sighted you fr
our castle observatory. As
a stranger to this land, you
ce summoned to our court.
Doom Rex,
Monarch of
Latveria
IN ALL THE TIME I HAVE BEEN CONFINED ON EARTH, NO ONE EXCEPT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAS ATTEMPTED TO MAKE PEACEFUL CONTACT WITH ME -- MUCH LESS INVITE ME INTO HIS HOME.
PART OF ME WARNS AGAINST ACCEPTING THIS INVITATION. I KNOW I WILL ONLY FIND MORE OF THE STRIFE ON WHICH HUMANS SEEM TO THRIVE.
AND YET, I AM CURIOUS ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF ROYALTY -- FOR WHICH THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT ON ZENN-LA. PERHAPS I WILL SAMPLE THE HOSPITALITY OF THIS "DOOM" AFTER ALL.
2


BEDEEP
He has taken the bait.
THIS PLACE IS LIKE NO OTHER I HAVE SEEN ON EARTH. IT BESPEAKS A LOVE OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE... AN APPRECIATION OF MAN'S MORE SUBLIME CREATIONS.
WELCOME TO MY HOME, SILVER SURFER. MY NAME IS DOOM.
YOU HAVE HEARD OF ME?
WHO HAS NOT HEARD OF THE OFFWORLDER WHO SAVED EARTH FROM THE MENACE OF GALACTUS? WHO AMONG MEN DOES NOT BEND HIS KNEE TO YOUR COURAGE?
MANY DO NOT. IN TRUTH, I BELIEVE THEY FEAR ME.
I DO NOT FEAR YOU. RATHER, I FEEL HONORED TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE.
BE CAREFUL, PLEASE. THAT SCROLL IS THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD...
ITS LANGUAGE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF A LONG-DEAD SPECIES WHOSE WORKS I STUDIED AS A YOUTH.
The reports are true. He can destroy matter with but a thought...
And create it again just as easily. Remarkable.
3

TELL ME, DOOM... HOW IS IT THAT YOU HOLD YOURSELF ABOVE OTHERS, AS YOUR TITLE SUGGESTS? WHAT QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP DO YOU POSSESS THAT SETS YOU APART?
DO NOT LET MY TITLE FOOL YOU, MY FRIEND. I AM LESS A LEADER THAN MY PEOPLE'S HUMBLE SERVANT.
BUT ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING OF THE WORK WE DO HERE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND IT AS INSPIRING AS I DO.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I DOUBT I COULD FIND ANYTHING INSPIRING ABOUT THIS WORLD. SO FAR, I HAVE SEEN ONLY MADNESS, SAVAGERY AND A THIRST FOR SELF-DESTRUCTION.
NOT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE LIKE THAT, I ASSURE YOU. SOME OF US WORK FOR THE ENNOBLEMENT OF OUR FELLOW MAN.
SOME OF US REACH FOR THE STARS, MY FRIEND, AND IF YOU DOUBT ME, HERE IS PROOF OF IT.
I KNOW OF THIS SPACE. I HAVE TRAVELED THROUGH IT, BASKED IN ITS MYSTERIES. BUT IT IS SO DISTANT... HOW DID YOU OBTAIN THE DATA TO RECREATE IT?
I MAINTAIN MY OWN SATELLITE IN EARTH'S ORBIT. IT ENABLES ME TO DRINK IN THE KIND OF BEAUTY THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE DENIED TO ME.
GO AHEAD... IMMERSE YOURSELF IN IT, IF YOU LIKE.
4

THE COSMOS HAS ALWAYS FASCINATED ME AS NOTHING ELSE COULD. I HAVE ALWAYS FELT... DRAWN TO IT, ONE MIGHT SAY.
BUT THEN, I AM ATTRACTED TO ALL FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE.
WITH THE DATA I GLEAN FROM MY SCRUTINY OF THE UNIVERSE, I CAN IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE HERE ON EARTH. I CAN OPEN MEN'S MINDS TO UNTOLD POSSIBILITIES.
I LAUD YOUR AMBITIONS, DOOM. IN FACT, I WAS A LOT LIKE YOU MYSELF ONCE -- FULL OF FIRE AND DREAMS.
IF THERE ARE MEN LIKE YOU WALKING THE EARTH, I MAY HAVE JUDGED YOUR SPECIES TOO HASTILY.
I CAN TELL YOU MUCH ABOUT THIS PART OF SPACE -- OR ANY OTHER FOR THAT MATTER. AFTER ALL, I HAVE SEEN IT FIRSTHAND.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT.
BUT BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, I MUST TELL YOU... THERE IS ANOTHER REASON I ASKED YOU TO VISIT THIS CHAMBER.
AND WHEN WILL YOU REVEAL THIS OTHER REASON?
WHY, RIGHT NOW...

Brain seared with cold fire...
Every synapse ripped open...
YEAAARGGH!
Black suns exploding inside me...
Spasming on a spit of emptiness...
YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME!
YOU BETRAYED YOURSELF!
YOU WASTED YOUR POWER, DEMONSTRATING THAT YOU ARE UNWORTHY OF IT. BUT I WILL PROVE MYSELF WORTHY.
Oh, HOW I WILL PROVE MYSELF WORTHY!
FSSSSHHAAAKKT

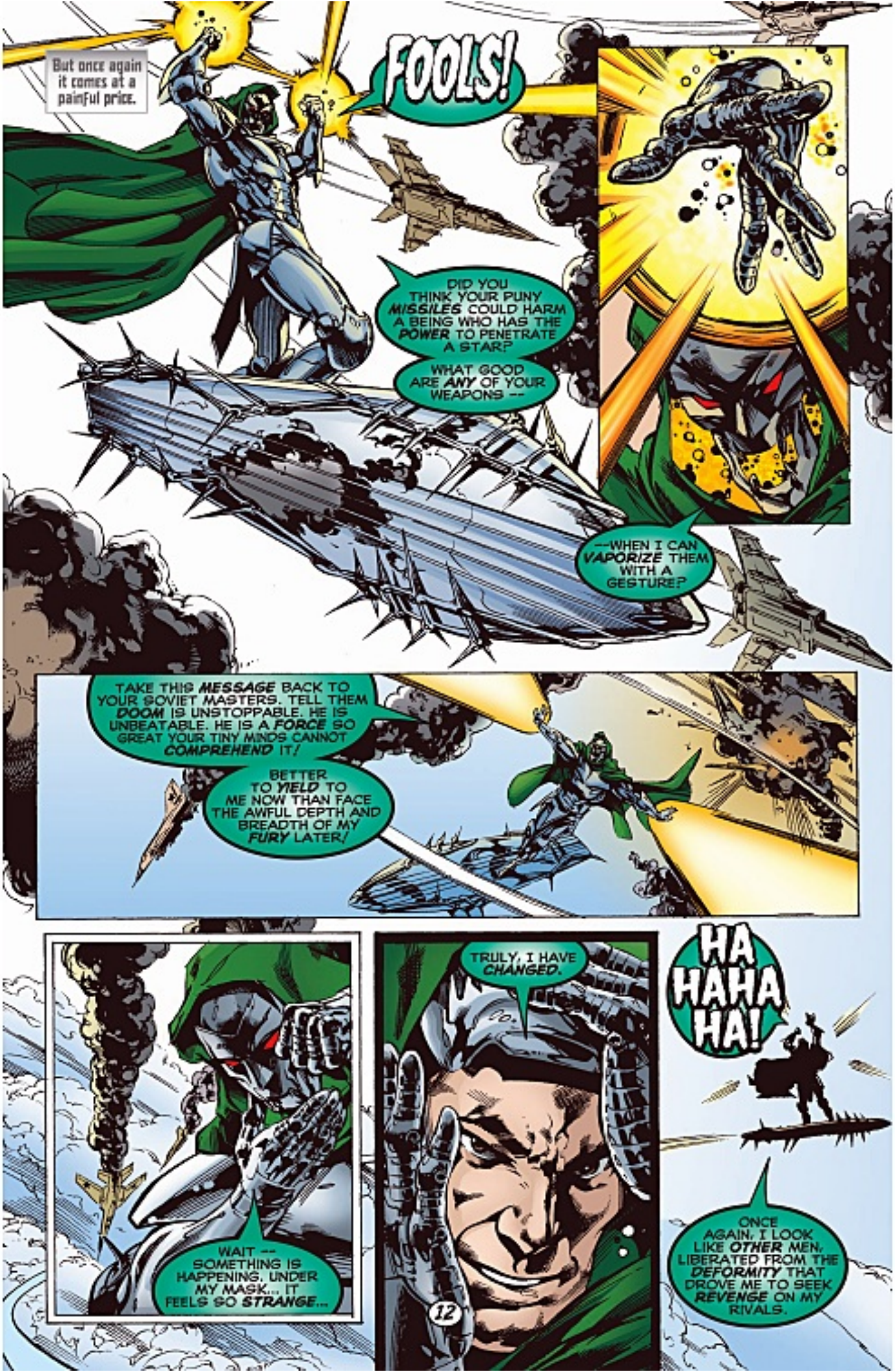
NOW, IT IS I WHO WIELD THE POWER COSMIC! NEVER BEFORE HAS A HUMAN BEING BEEN SO *INVINCIBLE* -- SO VASTLY AND INUTTERABLY *SUPERIOR!*
LET MANKIND TREMBLE, FOR *DOOM* HAS ATTAINED POWER WITHOUT *LIMIT* -- POWER ENOUGH TO SUBJUGATE THE *EARTH* AND EVERYTHING ON IT!
ALL HAIL DOOM!
7

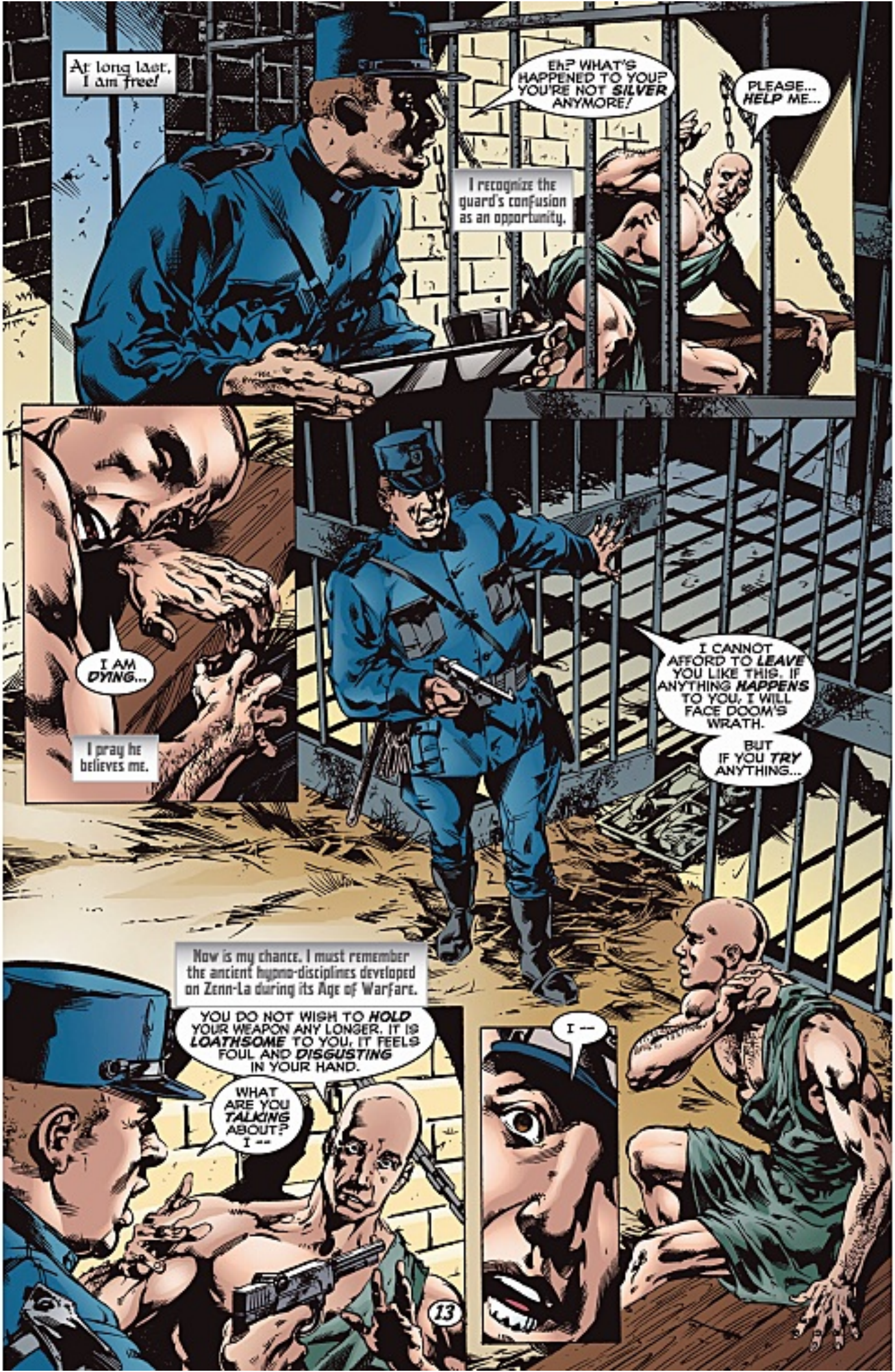
POOOM
<RUN! IT'S A DEMON FROM HELL!>
<LOOK -- SOMETHING SPEWING FROM VON DOOM'S CASTLE!>
<WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE IS THIS?>
YES -- A DEMON AND WORSE! RUN, YOU FOOLS! RUN BEFORE THE MATCHLESS POWER OF DOOM, MASTER OF ALL MANKIND!
<IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!>
NOT THE END -- BUT THE BEGINNING!

THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON EARTH? HAH! LOOK AT YOU NOW -- JUST ANOTHER SIDESHOW FREAK!
I HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG! YOU CANNOT LEAVE ME HERE LIKE THIS!
WITH THE POWER COSMIC GONE FROM MY BODY, I FEEL SO BARREN... SO HOLLOW INSIDE.
AND YET, IT IS AS IF A BURDEN HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM ME -- A BURDEN OF DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY.
IN A SENSE, I WAS IMPRISONED LONG BEFORE THIS. FIRST, AS GALACTUS' HERALD, I WAS DENIED THE LOVE OF SHALLA-BAL. THEN, WHEN I TURNED ON GALACTUS TO SAVE HUMANKIND, I WAS EXILED HERE ON EARTH.
NOW, I HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED IN THE MOST LITERAL PRISON OF ALL.
I ONLY DO WHAT I BELIEVE IS RIGHT. SO WHY MUST I BE SUBJECTED TO INDIGNITY AFTER INDIGNITY?
WHY MUST PAIN ALWAYS BE MY LOT?
9

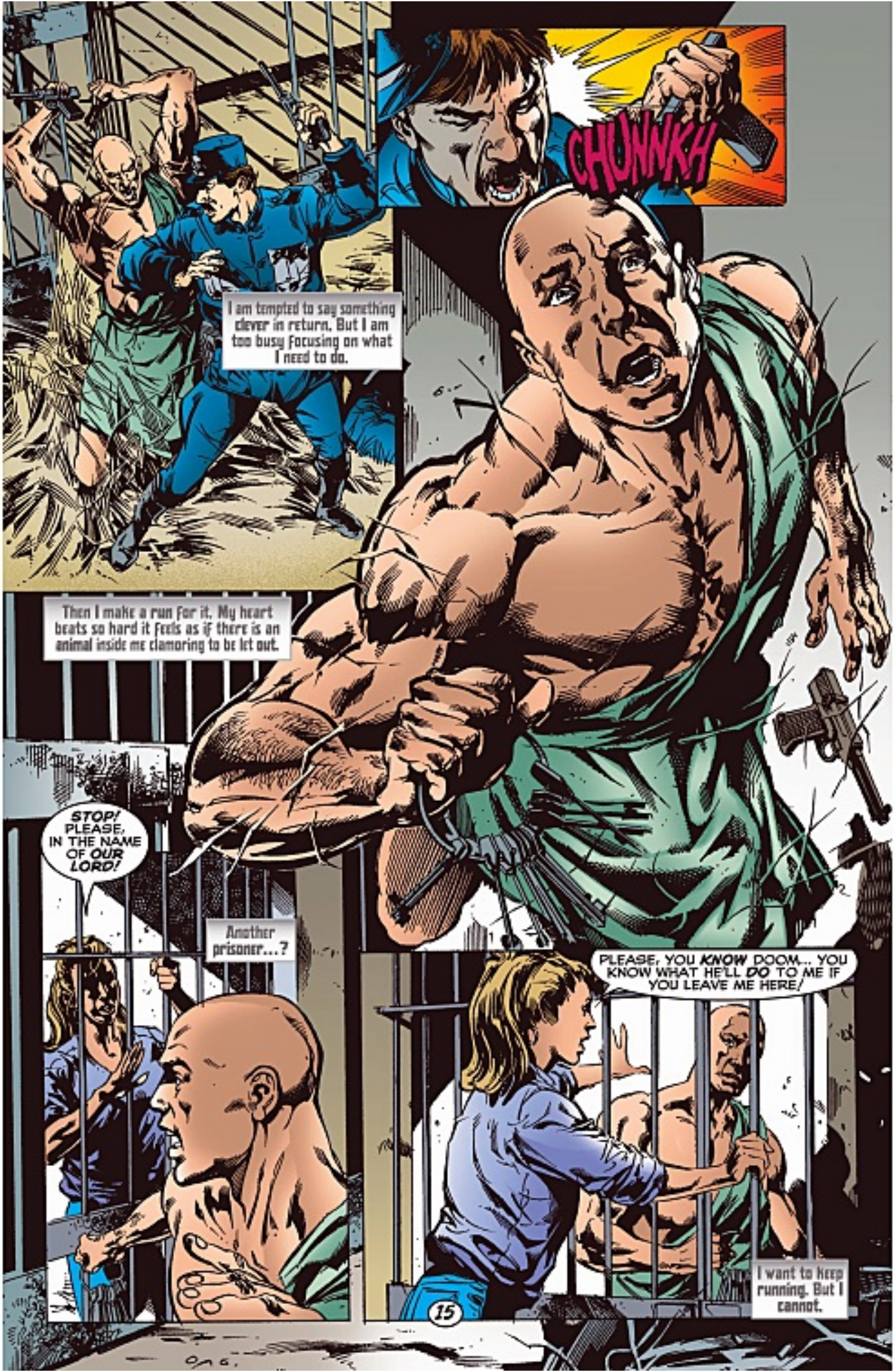
I WAS RIGHT, BEN. ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUMENTS, YOUR STRENGTH IS ACTUALLY INCREASING.
BUT I STILL LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THEY BLASTED OUT OF A ROCK QUARRY, SO WHAT'S THE --
HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? THAT GIZMO OF YOURS FLIP ITS MECHANICAL LID?
CONSIDER THIS A WARNING, BEN GRIMM. IT IS DOOM WHO WIELDS THE POWER COSMIC NOW -- AND THE DAY OF RECKONING IS NEAR!
DOOM? IN HERE?
WITH ALL OUR SECURITY, I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE -- BUT IF HE'S REALLY GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON THE POWER COSMIC...
KRAAANG
I GOTCHA POWER COSMIC RIGHT HERE, PEWTER PUSS!
SORRY ABOUT YER MONITORS, STRETCH.
FORGET THEM, BEN. WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE SURFER. IF DOOM'S STOLEN HIS AMAZING ENERGIES...
10

"...WHAT'S BECOME OF THE SURFER HIMSELF?"
PLOOP
SLSSSH
PLOOOP
PLOOP
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?
THE METALLIC SKIN GALACTUS GAVE ME SO I MIGHT ENDURE THE RIGORS OF THE VOID... WORN SINCE THE FATEFUL DAY I AGREED TO BECOME HIS HERALD...
IT DESERTS ME... ABANDONS ME... REVEALING THE VULNERABLE FLESH OF --
NORRIN RADD!
Over the years, I have longed for the chance to be mortal again -- to see, smell, hear and touch things as I did on Zenn-La.
Under different circumstances, I might have been pleased with this metamorphosis...
11

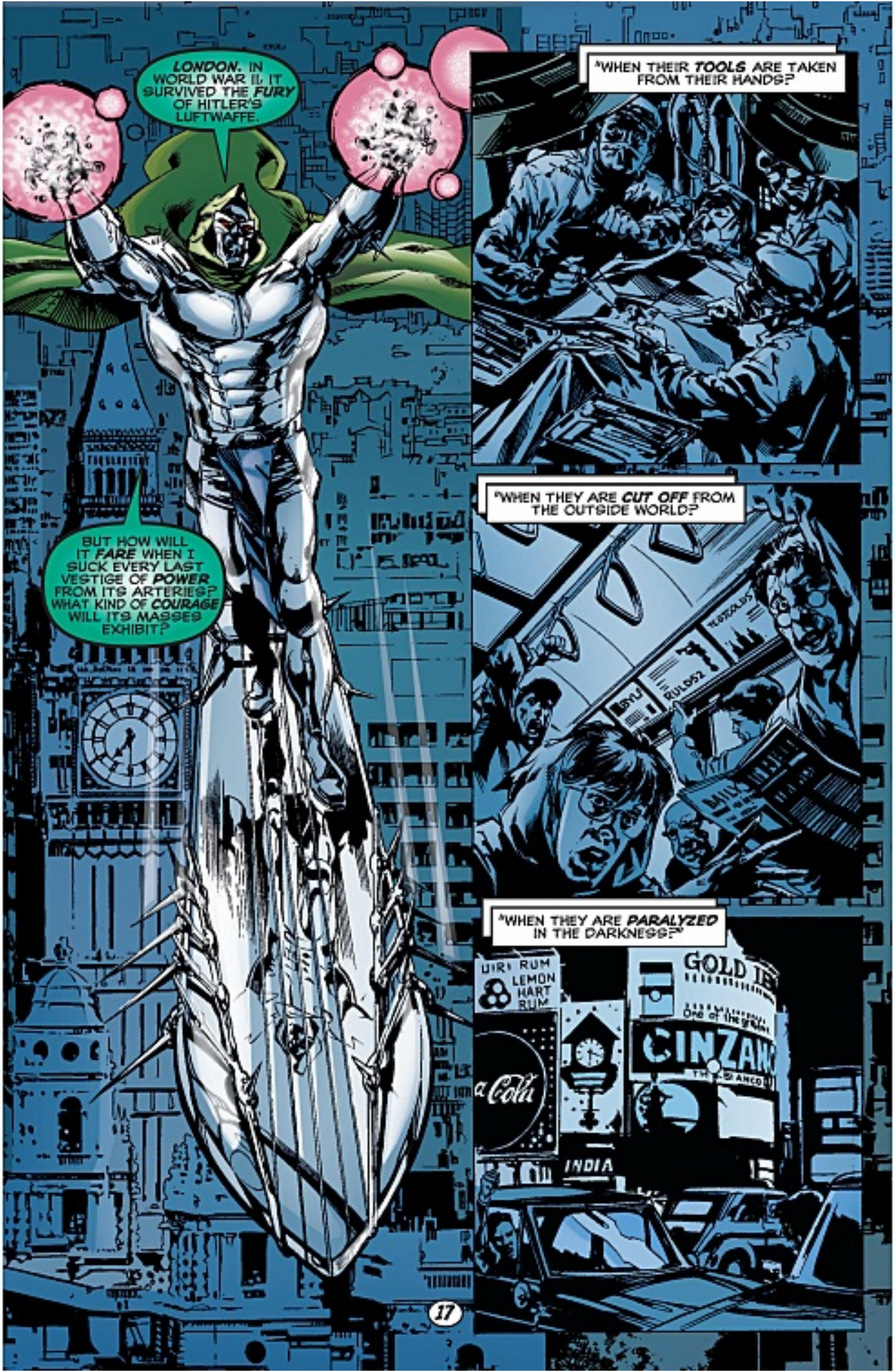

But once again it comes at a painful price.
FOOLS!
DID YOU THINK YOUR PUNY MISSILES COULD HARM A BEING WHO HAS THE POWER TO PENETRATE A STAR?
WHAT GOOD ARE ANY OF YOUR WEAPONS --
--WHEN I CAN VAPORIZE THEM WITH A GESTURE?
TAKE THIS MESSAGE BACK TO YOUR SOVIET MASTERS. TELL THEM DOOM IS UNSTOPPABLE. HE IS UNBEATABLE. HE IS A FORCE SO GREAT YOUR TINY MINDS CANNOT COMPREHEND IT!
BETTER TO YIELD TO ME NOW THAN FACE THE AWFUL DEPTH AND BREADTH OF MY FURY LATER!
WAIT -- SOMETHING IS HAPPENING, UNDER MY MASK... IT FEELS SO STRANGE...
TRULY, I HAVE CHANGED.
HA HAHA HA!
ONCE AGAIN, I LOOK LIKE OTHER MEN, LIBERATED FROM THE DEFORMITY THAT DROVE ME TO SEEK REVENGE ON MY RIVALS.
12

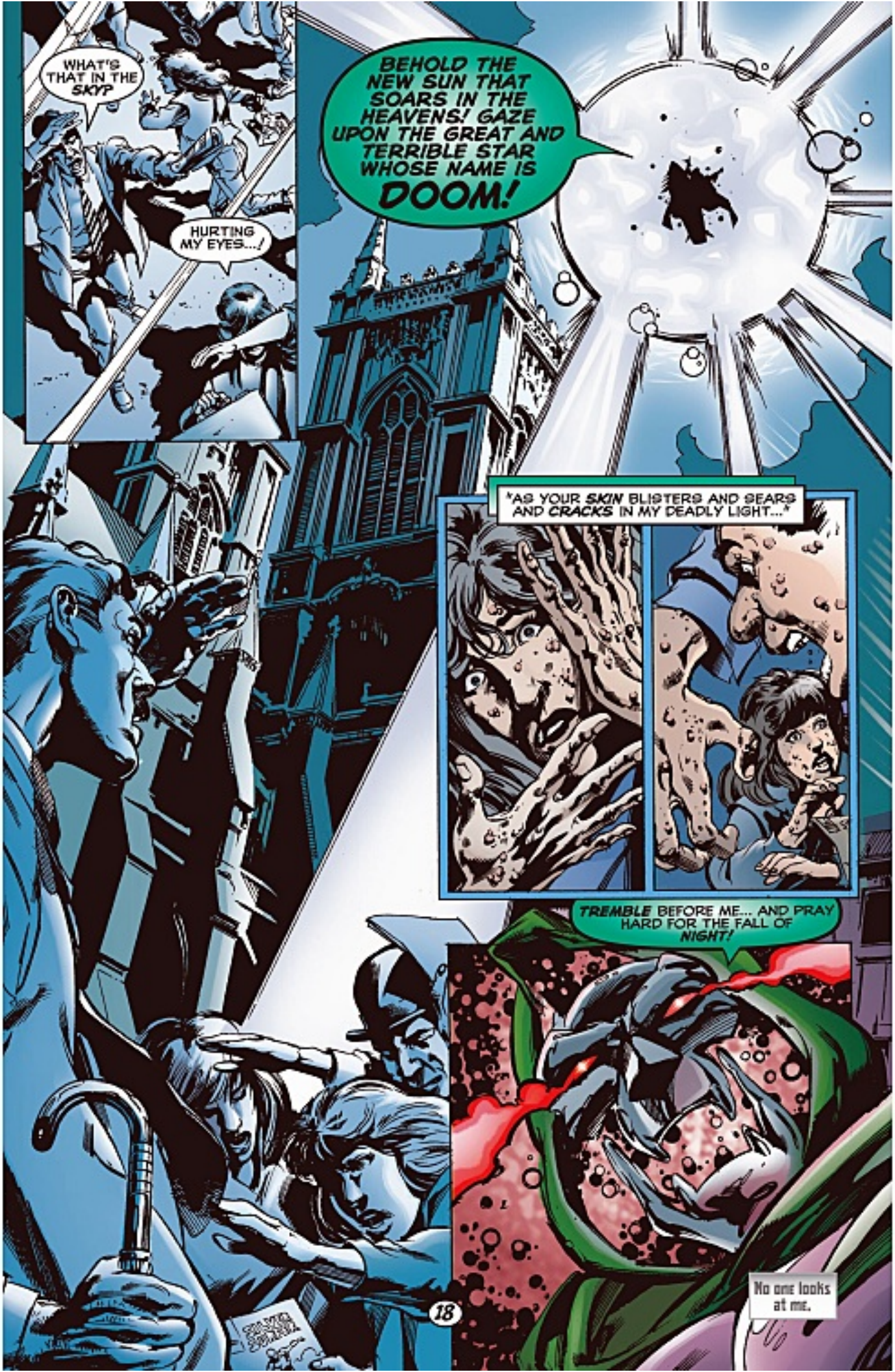

At long last, I am free!
EH? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'RE NOT SILVER ANYMORE!
PLEASE... HELP ME...
I recognize the guard's confusion as an opportunity.
I AM DYING...
I pray he believes me.
I CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I WILL FACE DOOM'S WRATH.
BUT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING...
Now is my chance. I must remember the ancient hypno-disciplines developed on Zenn-La during its Age of Warfare.
YOU DO NOT WISH TO HOLD YOUR WEAPON ANY LONGER. IT IS LOATHSOME TO YOU. IT FEELS FOUL AND DISGUSTING IN YOUR HAND.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I --
I --
13

YOU ARE RIGHT. IT FEELS FOUL TO ME.
I CAN RELIEVE YOU OF IT. THEN YOU WILL FEEL BETTER...
WHEN YOU WAKE UP!
KRAAK
Violence. As Norrin Radd. It was never my way.
HELMUT? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
The other Guard!
HELMUT! WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE? WHERE IS THAT FREAK OF A PRISONER?
14


CHUNNKH
I am tempted to say something clever in return. But I am too busy focusing on what I need to do.
Then I make a run for it. My heart beats so hard it feels as if there is an animal inside me clamoring to be let out.
STOP! PLEASE, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD!
Another prisoner...?
PLEASE, YOU KNOW DOOM... YOU KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO TO ME IF YOU LEAVE ME HERE!
I want to keep running. But I cannot.
15

YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!
WON'T I?
Every moment I delay is a dagger in my heart.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THERE'S AN EXIT DOWN THIS WAY! COME ON!
YOU SEEP ALL I HAVE TO DO IS PRESS THIS BRICK!
BUT HOW--?
I KNOW HOW DOOM'S CASTLE WAS PUT TOGETHER. MY PEOPLE OBTAINED A COPY OF THE ARCHITECT'S PLANS.
YOUR PEOPLE?
MY REBEL CELL.
WERE YOU TRYING TO TEAR DOWN THE TYRANT TOO?
NO... MY CONFLICT WITH DOOM IS OF A MORE PERSONAL NATURE!
16


LONDON. IN WORLD WAR II, IT SURVIVED THE FURY OF HITLER'S LUFTWAFFE.
BUT HOW WILL IT FARE WHEN I SUCK EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF POWER FROM ITS ARTERIES? WHAT KIND OF COURAGE WILL ITS MASSES EXHIBIT?
"WHEN THEIR TOOLS ARE TAKEN FROM THEIR HANDS?
"WHEN THEY ARE CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD?
"WHEN THEY ARE PARALYZED IN THE DARKNESS?"
LEMON HART RUM
GOLD
GINZAN
INDIA
17


WHAT'S THAT IN THE SKY?
HURTING MY EYES...!
BEHOLD THE NEW SUN THAT SOARS IN THE HEAVENS! GAZE UPON THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE STAR WHOSE NAME IS DOOM!
"AS YOUR SKIN BLISTERS AND SEARS AND CRACKS IN MY DEADLY LIGHT..."
TREMBLE BEFORE ME... AND PRAY HARD FOR THE FALL OF NIGHT!
No one looks at me.
18

But why would they? In my "borrowed" clothes, I look like one of them now.
IS IT MUCH FARTHER?
NOT MUCH.
I am struck by the million and one stimuli that assault my senses at every turn. The noises of people. The smells of their fruits and vegetables.
The sheer press of humanity.
This is nothing at all like the celestial solitude to which I have become accustomed.
YOU DON'T LIKE CROWDS, DO YOU?
IN TRUTH, I DO NOT.
I LOOK AT THEM DIFFERENTLY. TO ME, THEY REPRESENT SALVATION -- A WAY OF HIDING FROM DOOM'S POLICE UNTIL WE REACH OUR SAFEHOUSE.
Her name is Inga. She was placed in prison for conspiring to overthrow Doom.
I try to imagine Shalla-Bal or any other Zenn-Lavian functioning as a rebel -- but I cannot. Clearly, Inga is cut from a different cloth.
19

REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE!
ANYONE WHO RUNS WILL BE SHOT!
Doom's guards. My blood freezes at the sight of them.
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO RUN NOW. WE'LL JUST BE GUNNED DOWN -- AND A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE ALONG WITH US.
I am a Zenn-Lavian. I am not human.
Yet I am herded with the humans as if I were one of them.
COOPERATE AND THIS WON'T TAKE VERY LONG!
THERE -- IT'S HER! THE ONE WHO ESCAPED FROM THE CASTLE!
20

DOWN WITH THE TYRANT!
GRAB HER!
INGA!
NO!
SMEKK
KRAK
Pain has not abandoned me. I have not felt such physical agony since the day Galactus transformed me.
I am helpless...
NO! ANOTHER BLOW MAY KILL HER!
HE MUST BE THE OTHER ONE! SEIZE HIM!

UTTERLY HELPLESS!
BUT THEN, WHO AMONG THEM EXPECTED THE CITY OF HONOLULU TO BE BURIED IN A WAVE OF POLAR ICE?
Aloha
I HAVE MADE THE IMPROBABLE A REALITY. WITH LESS THAN A THOUGHT, I HAVE DONE WHAT ONLY A GOD COULD.
"I HAVE THROWN NATURE INTO TUMULT. I HAVE GUTTED THE LAWS OF PHYSICS."
THE EARTH HERSELF IS WILD-EYED WITH FEAR, WONDERING WHAT I WILL TURN MY HAND TO NEXT. BUT SHE NEED NOT WONDER MUCH LONGER.

FOR SOON, I WILL BE READY TO PUT MY POWER TO THE ULTIMATE TEST -- THE ANNIHILATION OF THE ACCURSED FANTASTIC FOUR!
NEXT ISSUE: TO THE HUNTER, THE PREY

MARVEL COMICS
LOFTIER THAN MORTALS 2 OF 2
SILVER SURFER
#2
WWW.MARVEL.COM
marvel
NEXT
Velluto GEIGER Top Chu
FRIEDMAN VELLUTO GEIGER

Stan Lee Presents:
To The Hunter, The Prey
Michael Jan Friedman writer
Sal Velluto penciler
Steve Geiger inker
Steve Oliff colors
RS & Comicraft/AD letters
Ruben Diaz editor
Bob Harras chief
STRANGE AND IMPOSING ARE THESE CARCASSES, THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS WORLD HAS NOT SEEN IN MILLIONS OF YEARS...
BUT THEY ARE NEITHER AS STRANGE NOR AS IMPOSING AS THE CREATURE I HAVE BECOME!
I RAISED THESE MONSTERS FROM THE FLESH OF COMMON JUNGLE BEASTS. AND WHEN I SAW THAT THEY COULD THRIVE... I SLAUGHTERED THEM.
WHY? BECAUSE IT IS MY NATURE! BECAUSE I HOLD LIFE AND DEATH IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!

BUT I AM BORED NOW WITH DEATH. SO I BATHE THE AREA WITH COSMIC RAYS...
...AND RESURRECT THE MONSTERS FROM THEIR GRISLY REMAINS!
BRUTISH THOUGH THEY MAY BE, THESE CREATURES EXUDE A CERTAIN BEAUTY -- A RADIANCE WITH WHICH I MUST HAVE UNINTENTIONALLY ENDOWED THEM.
MY POWER LENDS ITSELF SO EASILY TO CREATION... ALMOST AS EASILY AS IT LENDS ITSELF TO DESTRUCTION. AND SOMETHING INSIDE ME YEARNS TO CREATE MORE.
BUT HOW CAN I BECOME MASTER OF THE EARTH WITHOUT FOCUSING ALL MY ENERGIES ON THE DESTRUCTION OF MY ENEMIES?
THE QUESTION TORMENTS ME. I CANNOT THINK CLEARLY.
2

Suddenly, an idea occurs to me -- something I should have considered before.
I will turn to the one soul whose advice I can trust implicitly -- the shade of my long lost mother.
But she was exiled to the netherworld when I was but an infant.
I don't know the limits of the Power Cosmic. Can it conjure the woman who gave me life... providing I draw on what little I remember of her?
VICTOR...?
It is she! And how beautiful she is... more beautiful than I have ever dared dream.
WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME, MY SON?
MOTHER, I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED --
-- I MUST USE MY NEWFOUND POWER TO DESTROY IF I AM TO RULE... YET I AM DISTRACTED BY AN IMPULSE TO CREATE.
BE TRUE TO YOUR NATURE, VICTOR. THAT IS WHAT ALL GYPSIES LEARN IN TIME -- TO FOLLOW THEIR RESTLESS HEARTS.
YOU ARE FADING...! STOP -- I WANT TO KNOW MORE!
There is no answer. Only the wind.
3

NOOOOOO!
CALM YOURSELF, VON DOOM. THIS OUTBURST IS UNWORTHY OF YOU.
WHO KNOWS IF IT WAS EVEN YOUR MOTHER WITH WHOM YOU SPOKE? IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONLY AN IMAGE OF HER, PIECED TOGETHER BY YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS.
EITHER WAY, HER ADVICE WAS SOUND. THE WISEST COURSE IS THE ONE I FIRST SET FOOT ON -- TO CRUSH THE WORLD BENEATH MY BOOTED HEEL.
FOR A MOMENT, I FORGOT WHO I WAS. I IMAGINED MYSELF A FORCE OF NATURE, IMPERSONAL AND DISPASSIONATE.
BUT I AM NEITHER OF THOSE THINGS. I AM AND ALWAYS WILL BE...
...DOOM THE MERCILESS! MARKED BY A SOUL AS SCARRED AND DISFIGURED AS THE REFLECTION OF MY OWN FACE.
4

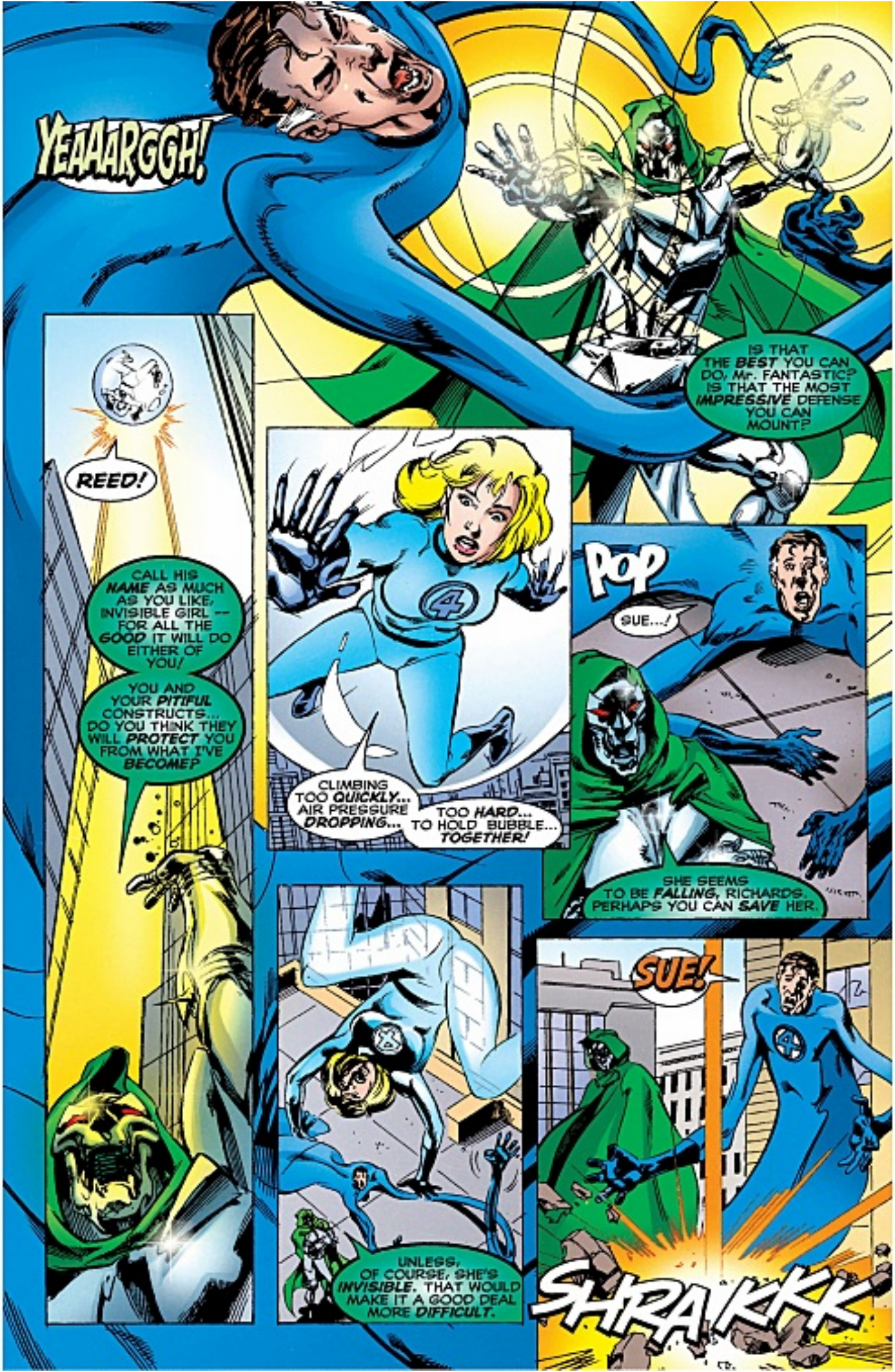
Forever, Doom the Destroyer!
HAD ENOUGH, REBEL SCUM?
The taste of blood is strong in my mouth. I have broken ribs, sustained internal damage.
Once I had the power to end this with a thought. Now I am helpless. All I can do is speak.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HOLD YOURSELF ABOVE US -- NO RIGHT TO INFLICT SUCH PAIN. YOUR CRUELTY IS A BLIGHT ON ALL CREATION.
PRETTY WORDS, PEASANT. NOW PAY FOR THEM!
NO -- THE MAN IS RIGHT!
WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND WATCH THIS!
DOOM'S TYRANNY HAS BEEN OUR CURSE FOR TOO LONG!
5

TEACH THESE IMBECILES A LESSON!
NO! FIGHT BACK!
INGA!
ARE YOU HURT BADLY?
BADLY ENOUGH.
Unless I do something, she will die... and the paving stones of Latveria will run red with blood.
But what can I do... now that I have been stripped of the Power Cosmic?
Is there no other remedy within my power?
6

No other way to douse the fire I've kindled?
THERE HE IS!
DON'T WORRY, REED -- HE WON'T GET PAST THE HUMAN TORCH!
I hardly feel the Torch's incredible heat. It does not faze me. The sun itself would barely make me break a sweat.
YOUR POWER IS INDEED FORMIDABLE, JOHNNY STORM!
HOWEVER, STRIPPED OF YOUR NATURAL IMMUNITY TO ITS SEARING FLAMES, YOU ARE AT THE MERCY OF THE ELEMENTS, AS THEY ARE TO ME!
His cry of agony is a balm to my spirit. It makes me hunger for more of the same.
YEAAAGH! BURNING... BY MY OWN... FIRE!

THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GET, CREEP!
CAREFUL, BEN! THIS ISN'T THE SAME DOCTOR DOOM WE FACED BEFORE!
AH... THE THING, THE HEART OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR. IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO TEAR IT OUT.
I DON'T NEED HELP TO DO THIS, STRETCH!
LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER, BEN!
BRRAANG
RUMMTCH
COME ON, YA STRUTTIN' CAN A' SARDINES! THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!
His anger makes him stronger than I remembered.
8

YER NOT WALKIN' AWAY FROM THIS ONE, DOOM!
I AGREE THAT ONE OF US WILL NOT WALK AWAY. WE WILL SEE WHICH ONE.
WHAT...? WHAT'D YA DO TO MY ARM...?!
FEELING PARALYZED, IS IT?
THE POWER COSMIC DRAWS ALL ANIMATE LIFE FROM YOUR GOLEM-LIKE FORM --
-- AS IF IT WERE INDEED TURNING TO BRITTLE STONE?
KRAAK
AAGGH!
YOU HAVE ALWAYS RESEMBLED A PILE OF ROCKS, BEN GRIMM. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT YOU TRULY BECOME ONE.
I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU WILL REQUIRE THIS ANYMORE.
YOU MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BEN?
CHANGE HIM BACK, DOOM -- OR SO HELP ME --
9

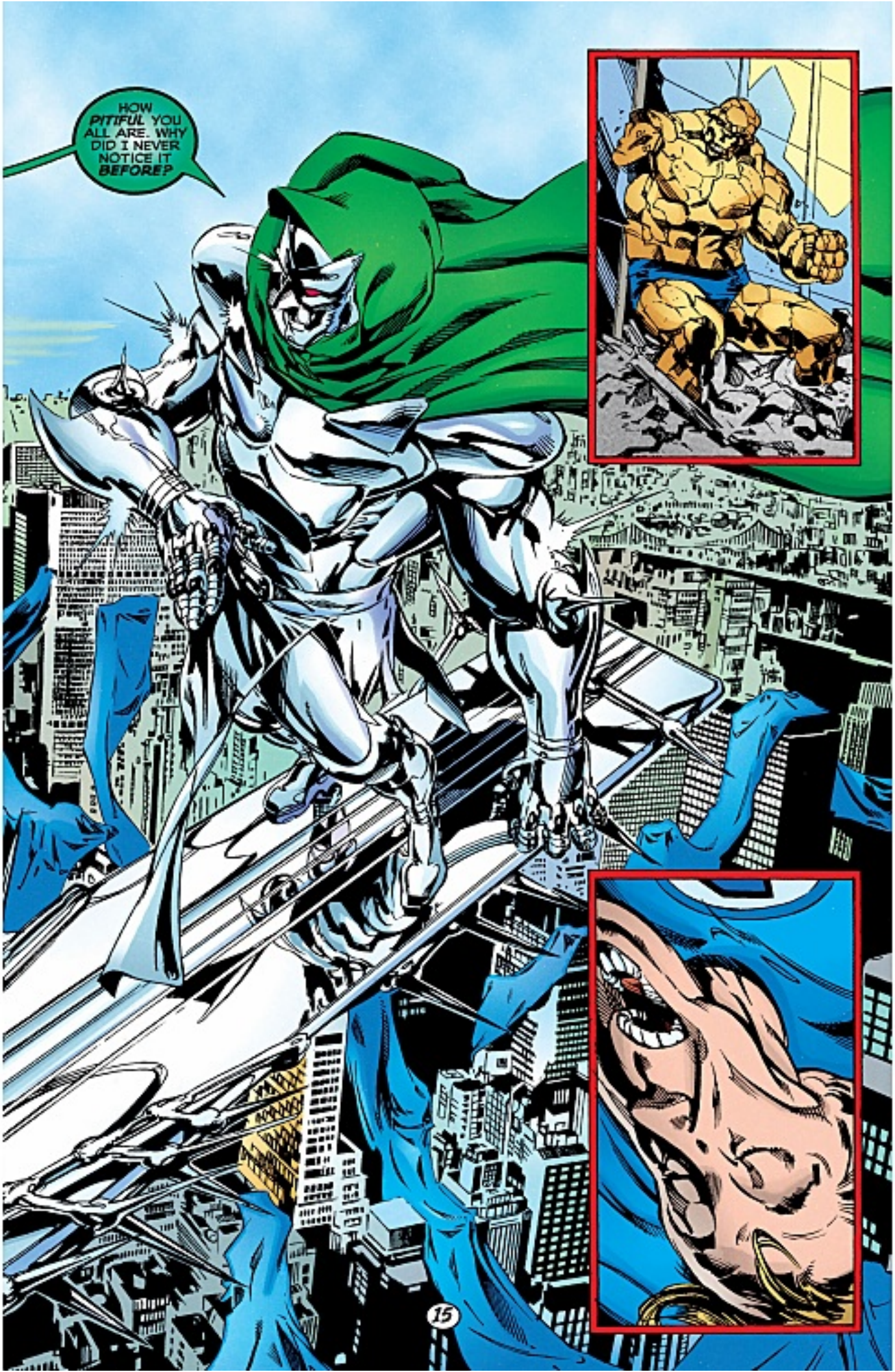

YEAAARGGH!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, MR. FANTASTIC? IS THAT THE MOST IMPRESSIVE DEFENSE YOU CAN MOUNT?
REED!
CALL HIS NAME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE, INVISIBLE GIRL -- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO EITHER OF YOU!
YOU AND YOUR PITIFUL CONSTRUCTS... DO YOU THINK THEY WILL PROTECT YOU FROM WHAT I'VE BECOME?
CLIMBING TOO QUICKLY... AIR PRESSURE DROPPING...
TOO HARD... TO HOLD BUBBLE... TOGETHER!
POP
SUE...!
SHE SEEMS TO BE FALLING, RICHARDS. PERHAPS YOU CAN SAVE HER.
UNLESS, OF COURSE, SHE'S INVISIBLE. THAT WOULD MAKE IT A GOOD DEAL MORE DIFFICULT.
SUE!
SHRAKKK

HER BONES ARE SHATTERED... HER BODY CRUSHED BEYOND REPAIR...
AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT, CONSIDERING THE HEIGHT FROM WHICH SHE FELL.
YOU FIEND! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, DOOM!
I THINK NOT!
SPOOM
This is the one whose misery I crave. This is the one whose despair I most wish to savor.
FORGIVE MY THOUGHTLESSNESS, REED RICHARDS. I WAS SO DETERMINED TO BESTOW MY GIFTS ON YOUR TEAMMATES, I NEARLY OVERLOOKED YOU.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE CORRECTED THAT OVERSIGHT.
SINCE YOU WERE SO EAGER TO STRETCH YOURSELF BEYOND MORTAL LIMITS, HERO, LEADER, SCIENTIST, HUSBAND, YOU CAN REMAIN THAT WAY... FOREVER!
11

STILL YOU INSIST ON OPPOSING ME? CAN YOU NOT SEE HOW FUTILE IT IS?
FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SAID TO BE A GENIUS, YOU SEEM WOEFULLY INCAPABLE OF ACCEPTING THE OBVIOUS.
UNNH!
WHAT IS THIS? IT HAS YOUR MARK ON IT, RICHARDS!
STRIPPING ME... OF MY POWER...?!
THIS IS WHAT MY FUTILE EFFORTS WERE ALL ABOUT, DOOM. I WAS DISTRACTING YOU SO YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE THE APPROACH OF MY COSMIC NULLIFIER.
NO! IT CANNOT BE! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
12

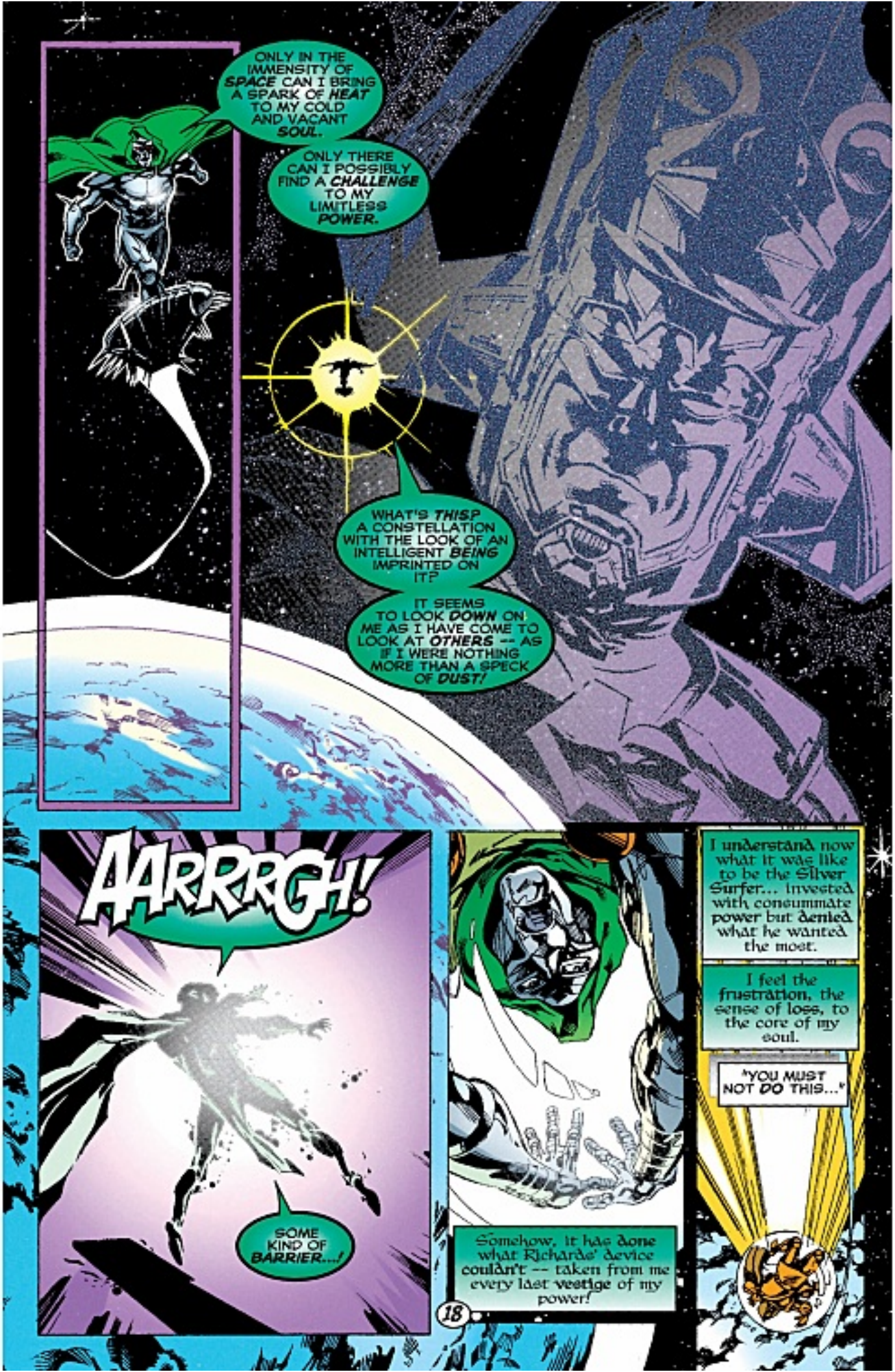
YOU SEE, RICHARDS? IN THE END, YOUR INVENTION IS A FAILURE -- JUST LIKE ITS CREATOR!
CHOOM
CURSE YOU, DOOM...
EVEN NOW YOU REFUSE TO GIVE UP?
HAVE YOU NO EYES? CAN YOU NOT SEE THE TERRIBLE FINALITY OF WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED?
MUST I DO EVEN MORE?
AAAAAHH!

GOODBYE, REED RICHARDS. EVEN YOU CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT BREATH -- AND YOU HAVE NO MUSCLES LEFT WITH WHICH TO BREATHE.
GOODBYE, JOHNNY STORM... SUSAN STORM... BEN GRIMM.
14


HOW PITIFUL YOU ALL ARE. WHY DID I NEVER NOTICE IT BEFORE?

NO! STOP! PLEASE!
YOU WILL KILL THEM! YOU WILL KILL EACH OTHER!
THIS IS MADNESS! WHAT KIND OF REASONING BEING COULD CONTEMPLATE THIS?
My cries fall on deaf ears. No one wants to listen. All they want to do is punish each other.
AGGHH!
I cannot do anything. I am only one man, after all.
How I wish I had the power again to set things right...
16

THE FANTASTIC FOUR... HUMBLED AND EXTERMINATED. STRANGE... I ALWAYS BELIEVED I WOULD FIND JOY IN SUCH A VICTORY.
BUT I CANNOT. IT IS HOLLOW, SOMEHOW.
FOR ALL MY POWER, I CANNOT SEEM TO PLEASE MYSELF. THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN STAND AGAINST ME, NO CHALLENGE GREAT ENOUGH TO TEST MY METTLE.
THEN WHAT WAS IT ALL FOR?
LET IT ALL BE UNDONE! LET EVERYTHING BE AS IT WAS!
SUCH IS THE COMMAND OF DOOM REX!
STRETCH... ? WHAT GIVES?
WE'RE ALIVE -- BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW!
LOOK -- JOHNNY'S OKAY TOO!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
LET HIM GO, JOHNNY.
AS IF WE COULD STOP HIM...
17


ONLY IN THE IMMENSITY OF SPACE CAN I BRING A SPARK OF HEAT TO MY COLD AND VACANT SOUL.
ONLY THERE CAN I POSSIBLY FIND A CHALLENGE TO MY LIMITLESS POWER.
WHAT'S THIS? A CONSTELLATION WITH THE LOOK OF AN INTELLIGENT BEING IMPRINTED ON IT?
IT SEEMS TO LOOK DOWN ON ME AS I HAVE COME TO LOOK AT OTHERS -- AS IF I WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A SPECK OF DUST!
AARRRGH!
SOME KIND OF BARRIER...!
Somehow, it has done what Richards' device couldn't -- taken from me every last vestige of my power!
I understand now what it was like to be the Silver Surfer... invested with consummate power but denied what he wanted the most.
I feel the frustration, the sense of loss, to the core of my soul.
"YOU MUST NOT DO THIS..."
18

YOU MUST NOT DIE, INGA... YOU MUST TRY TO HOLD ON...
I plead my throat raw, but in my heart I know it is too late for her.
WHAT... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
LOOK!
MY SILVER VENEER IS RETURNING -- AND WITH IT MY BOARD.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW AND WHY, BUT ONCE MORE...
I SING WITH THE POWER COSMIC!

HE IS A DEMON, LIKE THE OTHER ONE!
NO -- HE IS A GOD!
HE SERVES VON DOOM!
NO -- HE HAS COME TO LEAD US AGAINST THE TYRANT!
I AM NONE OF THE THINGS YOU WISH ME TO BE -- NOR DO I HAVE ANY INKLING OF HOW MY POWER WAS RESTORED.
BUT ONCE AGAIN, I AM HE WHO NAVIGATES THE SPACEWAYS... POWER UNLIMITED IN THE GUISE OF MAN.
ONCE AGAIN, I AM THE SILVER SURFER

THIS HAS GONE ON FAR TOO LONG. TOO MUCH PRECIOUS BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED.
I CONDEMN YOUR VIOLENCE. I DENOUNCE YOU, POLICEMAN AND PEASANT ALIKE.
END YOUR CONFLICT THIS INSTANT... OR SUFFER IRREPARABLE HARM TO YOUR COUNTRY AND KIN!
They harken to my words. They slink away.
How easy it is for me to stop their insanity now that I again wield the Power Cosmic.
How easy also for me to mend that which was broken.
NORRIN...?
I HAVE MY POWERS BACK, INGA. I AM THE SURFER AGAIN.
DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM STILL THE PERSON YOU KNEW.
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I WAS ALWAYS WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU -- BUT MY POWER WAS STOLEN BY THE TYRANT DOOM.
PLEASE... I MUST GO NOW. I HAVE TO REACH THE SAFE-HOUSE BEFORE THE POLICE HUNT ME DOWN AGAIN.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT. I CAN KEEP YOU SAFE.
YES, BUT NOT FOREVER.
She does not stop. Inga is frightened by me. They all are.
Once again, I am alone. It is the price I must pay for what I am.
21

THAT STREAKING FIGURE... CAN IT BE DOOM?!
SUDDENLY, I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HOW MY POWER WAS RETURNED TO ME. DOOM MUST HAVE REACHED FOR THE STARS...
...AND FOUND HIS MATCH IN THE BARRIER THAT ENFORCES MY EXILE. EVEN DOOM CANNOT VAULT THE WILL OF MY CREATOR -- GALACTUS.
KRAAAKSH
COME TO GLOAT, ALIEN? COME TO SEE DOOM HUMBLED?
I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL FOR WHAT YOU ATTEMPTED. I SEEK NO REVENGE.
ONCE AGAIN, I AM POWER INCARNATE. I AM ABOVE BASE EMOTIONS.
THAT'S NOT WHY YOU DON'T LASH OUT AT ME. BE TRUTHFUL -- IF ONLY WITH YOURSELF.
IT'S BECAUSE, OF ALL MEN, ONLY I HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EMPTY YOU FEEL...
...SINCE I FEEL THE SAME.

I was cast in a role unsuited to me -- with no power to act on my own behalf.
Now I can shoulder my role as protector with new resolve -- with new appreciation for the plight of the helpless.
I was cast in a role unsuited to me -- a victim of might without purpose.
Now I can use my own devices to destroy the Fantastic Four -- and enjoy my triumph when it finally comes.
NO MORE WILL I SEEK RELEASE FROM MY FATE. NEVER AGAIN WILL I WISH TO BECOME WHAT I AM NOT.
I HAVE SEEN THE TURMOIL AND THE STRIFE THAT ATTEND SUCH DESIRES -- AND HAVING SEEN THEM, I DO NOT WISH TO SEE THEM AGAIN.
NOW AND FOREVER, I WILL BE WHAT THE GALAXY DEMANDS OF ME. I WILL BE THE SILVER SURFER!
The End
23

MARVEL VISION'S "TIME SLIP" FEATURE ASKED MODERN CREATORS TO REIMAGINE CLASSIC MARVEL HEROES. ISSUE #14 PRESENTED THE SILVER SURFER BY JIM KRUEGER, JEFF SMITH & ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH.

SILVER SURFER

TIME SLIP

JEFF SMITH

Welcome to the Marvel Universe that would have been if today's hottest creators had been with Stan Lee on the eve of the birth of Marvel Comics. Think of this as the world that might have been. Think of it as the world that might still be coming.

Jeff Smith, famed for the writing and drawing of his own creation, BONE, takes his animated abilities to he who soars the spaceways —The Silver Surfer.

You may know of the sacrifice Norrin Radd made for his homeworld of Zenn-La. About that fated moment when when the shadow of death fell across his entire planet in the form of the world-eater, Galactus. A moment when an unholy bargain was struck to save Zenn-La, and Norrin Radd became Galactus's herald... the Silver Surfer.

We know now that Galactus manipulated his new servant's mind, causing him to have no regrets over leading his master to new worlds to devour.

But in the world where Jeff Smith designed the Silver Surfer, the sacrifice, while just as noble, led to a far more terrible fate than even Galactus anticipated.

Norrin, now called the the Silver Surfer and devoid of guilt and and regret, was so changed by the cosmic rays that transformed him that even loyalty was a characteristic made alien to him. And soon, he began to lust for command of the ship of his master. And while he sought out worlds for his master's unending appetite, he would also seek out certain components necessary to construct a weapon to slay or "nullify" Galactus.

In time he did just that. And with the dying breaths of Galactus, the master not only undid the binds he had placed on Norrin Radd's conscience, but also revealed the reason and source of his hunger. And Norrin, with tears that even now float through the never-ending skyways, was confronted with all he had done... and all that lay in peril with the death of his master, and this led to the second sacrifice of the Silver Surfer.

There are some tragedies so terrible that we believe there can be nothing worse. But there always is something more terrible than what we are even able to imagine. And so, having learned the tragedy to befall all of creation now that Galactus was not a part of it, Norrin became his master and a destroyer of worlds himself.

He recreated Galactus' ship into a cosmic sliver which would slice through the cosmos. He is a flying Dutchman, destroying everything in his wake, all he finds for the sake of all that exists.

Mercy would not be completely denied him, for years from now, after ripping through countless worlds, the Surfer's conscience would leave him... he would have no more heart. No more soul. No more mind. And perhaps that's what accounts for his appearance. For without conscience, the cosmic rays which give him life act as a cancer, eating away at who he is, warping and gaunting the once noble surfer.

The last dying transmissions of worlds halved by the Surfer report a strange ship of sorts. In truth... it is the face of death... the face of the Silver Surfer.

Like his master, he is a villain to his victims... a villain who may just be the greatest hero of them all.

JEFF
SMITH
96

sketchbook

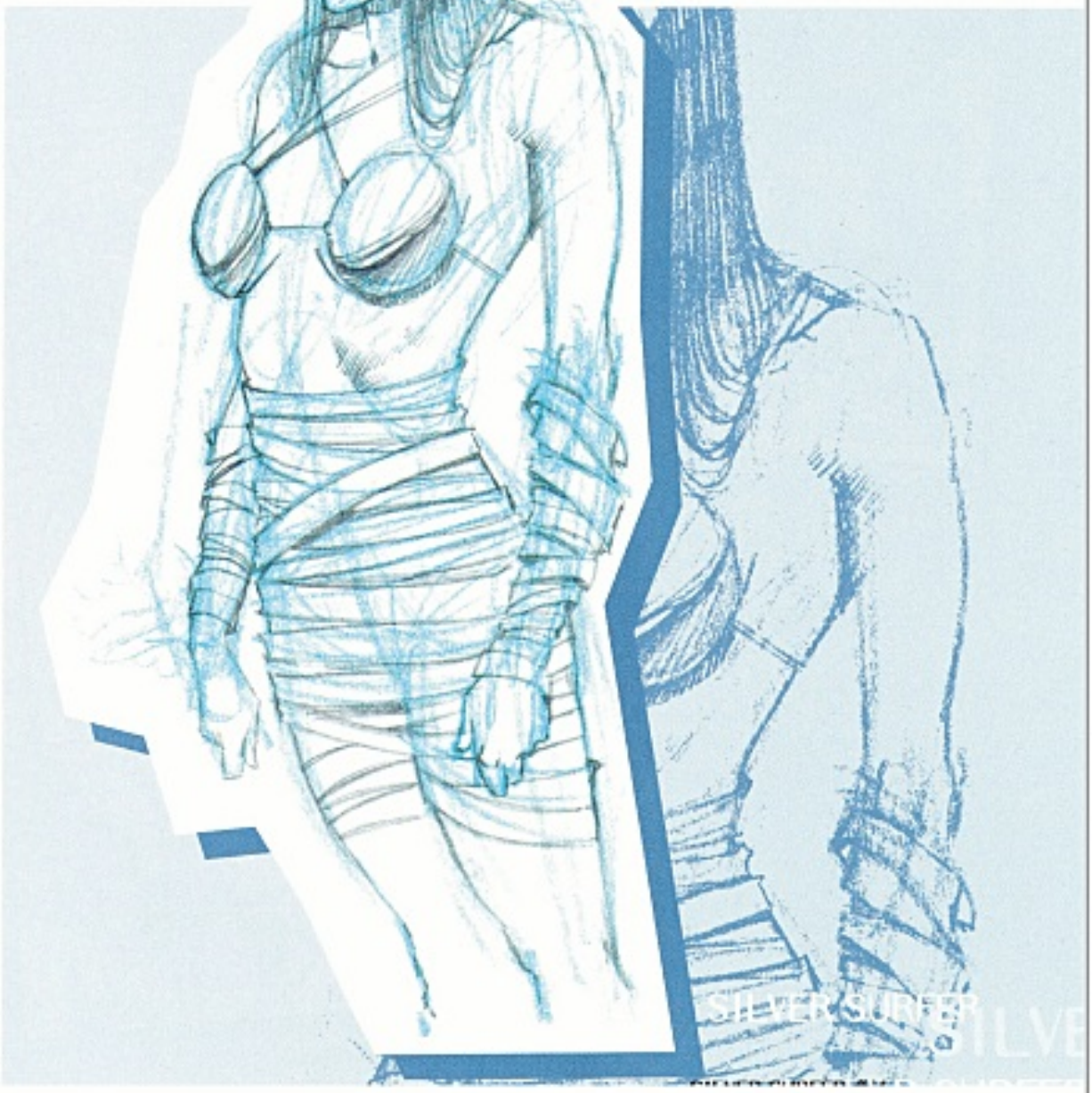
silver surfer

ARIEL OLIVETTI'S ORIGINAL COVER SKETCH FOR THIS HERE 1/2 ISSUE. COOL HUH?

THIS FANCY PIECE OF WORK IS AN UNUSED COVER SKETCH. YOU NEVER KNOW, IT JUST MAY SHOW UP SOMEWHERE.

ook BEHIND THE SCENES GOODIES

TOM DEFALCO ASKED ARIEL TO DRAW THE NEW CHARACTER SYMPIRA AS "A GORGEOUS, SEXY WOMAN WHO POSSESSES POWER ON THE SURFER'S LEVEL." HERE'S WHAT HE CAME UP WITH.



A DRAMATIC SHOT OF A VERY PENSIVE SILVER SURFER SLASHING THROUGH SPACE ABOARD HIS SURFBOARD.

CAN YOU TELL THAT THOSE ARE IMAGES OF THE THING AND ALICIA MASTERS IN THE TOP PANEL?

THE SURFER SHOOTS THE CURL TO MAKE A LAST MINUTE SAVE OF AN INNOCENT CHILD'S LIFE.
SYMPIRA THOUGHT HER ARTIFICIAL POWER COSMIC COULD DEFEAT THE SURFER'S TRUE POWER COSMIC. BOY, WAS SHE WRONG!

SILVER SURFER #1/2 FOIL VARIANT BY ARIEL OLIVETTI

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #2 COVER ART BY JOHN BUSCEMA & BILL SIENKIEWICZ

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GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #2, PAGES 2-3 ART BY JOHN BUSCEMA & BILL SIENKIEWICZ
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BACK TO GANG — FF CHECKING OUT SPACE.
AVENGERS IN MANSION —
HULK WATCHING BIGNTS
SPIDY SEES IT ON TV
ON TV WHILE HE HAS HIS MORNING CEREAL

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER #2, PAGE 19 LAYOUT BY JOHN BUSCEMA

ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE
Book Galactus
Issue 3
Story Page # 1
Line Up Page #
KEEP ALL LETTERING INSIDE BROKEN LINE BOX
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Story Page 30
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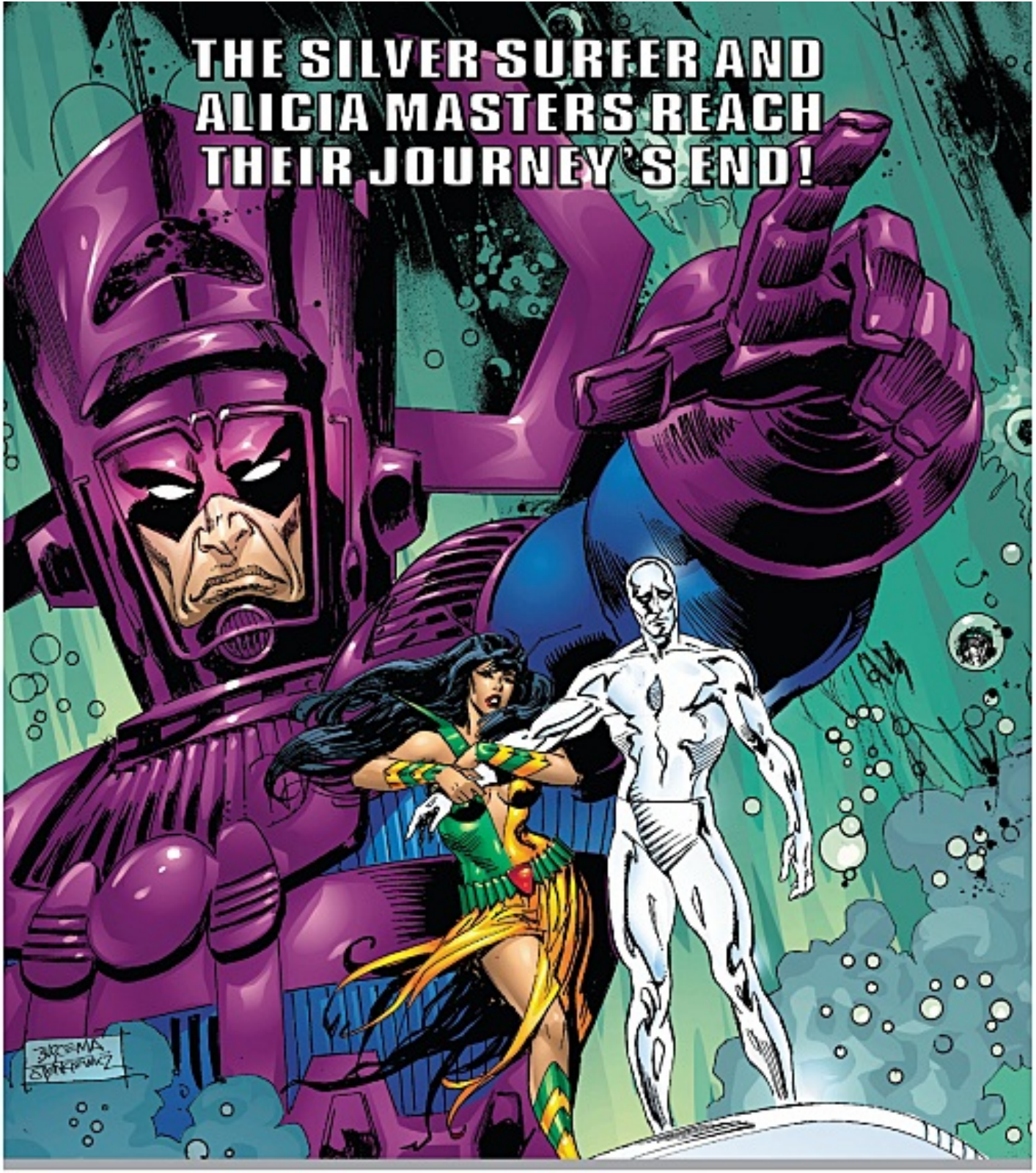
GALACTUS THE DEVOURER PROMOTIONAL ART BY JON J MUTH & ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH



But before they go their separate ways, they must survive the manipulations of Tenebrae — and venture into the Microverse! And no trip there is complete without an emotionally charged battle against Psycho-Man! The Surfer feels the heat of Firelord's fury, and the long-imprisoned Millennius is powerful enough to cause problems for both the Sentinel of the Spaceways and the God of Thunder! Then, when Galactus' unceasing hunger drives him mad, he once again comes to destroy Earth! As Marvel's greatest heroes face the ultimate cosmic threat, the Surfer makes the greatest sacrifice of all! Plus: Doctor Doom steals the Power Cosmic in a retelling of a classic Surfer tale!

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